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No. 88

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KUSTOFF).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 21, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DAVID KUSTOFF to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

INFLATION UNDER THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, the price of gasoline has risen 55 percent, the price of electricity is up close to 30 percent, the price of groceries is up more than 20 percent, and the price of baby food is up 30 percent.

Across Pennsylvania, families are feeling the effects of this inflation. On

average, they are paying an additional \$70 a month for housing and an additional \$240 a month for transportation. Since 2021, Pennsylvania households have spent over \$20,000 more than they would have because of inflation.

Recently, President Biden has attempted to claim that inflation was already at 9 percent annually when he took office, when, in fact, it was only at 1.4 percent.

What we are seeing is a President who has failed in his duty to protect American families. In central Pennsylvania, more than 100,000 families make less than \$50,000 a year. Mothers shouldn't have to make a decision on whether to buy gasoline or to buy school lunches. Parents should not have to worry at the kitchen table about paying their credit card bill or their rent.

This is the reality that President Biden's radical spending spree has created over the past 4 years. It is time to return to fiscal sanity, and it is time to once again be responsible stewards of the taxpayer dollar.

No matter what President Biden says in his campaign speeches, inflation is the fault of his administration, and it is time to put a stop to the President's failed policies.

RECOGNIZING MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Memorial Day, we remember and honor the over 1.1 million Americans who have given their lives while serving in the Armed Forces. These men and women are heroes. The American story is not told without recognizing the price that they have paid to ensure our continued freedom.

In Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, we understand the terrible price that freedom costs. It was in Gettysburg, following the bloodiest battle of the Civil War, that President Lincoln said we must: "take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion."

In the western part of our district, Cambria County was home to both United States Marine Corps Sergeant Michael Strank and U.S. Army Captain Harry Cramer.

Sergeant Strank was one of the marines who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima. He was killed several days later during heavy fighting on that island.

Captain Cramer was a Green Beret, one of the Army's most highly trained warriors who, in 1957, would become the first American casualty during the war in Vietnam.

These stories are very representative of the men and women across our country who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

This weekend, amid graduation parties and summer barbecues, please take a moment to recognize these brave men and women who swore an oath to defend our Nation and gave the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our freedoms.

ENDING HUNGER IN CUBA

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

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the Special Rapporteur on Economic, Social, Cultural, and Environmental Rights expressed concern over the worsening of food insecurity in Cuba.

They noted how this situation disproportionately affects the most vulnerable, including older people, pregnant women, children, and those with chronic illnesses. This is not a problem just in Havana. Most of Cuba's provinces are experiencing high levels of food insecurity.

In March, the BBC reported that, for the first time, the Cuban Government has asked the World Food Programme for help amid food shortages. The WFP

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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said it had received Cuba's request for help to provide powdered milk to children under age 7.

According to the Inter-American Commission, the Cuban Government approached WFP for help to continue the monthly delivery of milk for children throughout the country and to help with the delivery of flour for subsidized bread in the basic food basket.

The Commission went on to describe how hunger is increasing on the island due to a combination of low economic growth, high inflation, reduced food production and distribution, and infrastructure problems, especially interruptions in electricity.

It also cited recent economic measures adopted by the Cuban Government, including higher prices for fuel and electricity, the elimination of subsidies for the basic food basket, and the devaluation of the country's currency.

The Inter-American Commission and the Special Rapporteur then underscored that U.S. policies and sanctions are intensifying and worsening the social and economic condition throughout Cuba and especially affecting the Cuban people's access to food, medicines, and basic necessities.

In brief, Mr. Speaker, the United States is increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. This is being done deliberately and knowingly. It is a human rights violation. It also appears it is being done with a degree of indifference and callousness that I find shocking. It makes me ashamed.

During all my time as a Member of Congress, I have fought to end hunger and food insecurity here at home and around the world. I do not believe that food and medicine should ever be used as weapons against innocent civilians, not in Sudan, not in Ukraine, not in Gaza, not anywhere.

I have coordinated hearings that highlight how governments and armed actors use food as a weapon against civilian populations they view as adversaries.

To see our own government deliberately imposing and maintaining sanctions that we know make hunger worse in Cuba is unconscionable to me.

It is also unconscionable, Mr. Speaker, that some Members of Congress, who cling to Cold War policies, appear eager to support actions that punish and increase the suffering of ordinary people on the island. They actually raise money off the Cuban people's suffering. They say they care about human rights but contribute to making the human rights situation worse. They deliberately create chaos because they can, with absolutely no regard to how it hurts the Cuban people.

Sadly, President Biden has adopted and maintained Donald Trump's policies against Cuba, policies that he rightly denounced as a candidate and when he was Vice President, policies that hurt the very people he says he most wants to help, like independent entrepreneurs, young people, Afro-Cubans, women, and the poor.

President Biden knows that keeping Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list means no one in Cuba has access to the international financial system. Our European and Latin American friends and allies are unable to provide help to the Cuban people out of fear of being punished by U.S. sanctions. Then we wonder why hundreds of thousands of Cubans are leaving the island and migrating to our borders.

I am puzzled and deeply disappointed by the President's inaction. The situation has become desperate, with little hope for a better future. U.S. stubbornness sends a clear signal to the Cuban people that there is no reason to believe that change will happen.

President Biden, your policies are hurting not the Cuban Government but the Cuban people. Your policies are helping to drive mass migration from the island. Mr. President, stop increasing hunger and poverty in Cuba. Remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, and let's move toward normalizing relations between our two countries. It is in the interest of both our peoples. Take action and please do it now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

HONORING BRIGADIER GENERAL CLARENCE E. "BUD" ANDERSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a dear friend, Brigadier General Clarence E. "Bud" Anderson, probably known best, at least by me and some others in the neighborhood, as Colonel Bud.

In recent years, Representative TOM MCCLINTOCK and I petitioned the Air Force to upgrade him to brigadier general, which he certainly deserved and he earned, but I think most folks kind of know him as Colonel Bud.

What you see there in his countenance and smile goes even beyond his exploits as a triple ace in World War II to the kind, nice, and decent man that he was.

You could sit down with Colonel Bud and just chat about anything. He was willing to talk about his time serving in World War II, especially as a fighter ace, a triple ace. "Ace" means five kills of enemy aircraft. He did that over three times.

He was known as everybody's friend in the Auburn area of northern California. It was certainly a pleasure for me to know him since somewhere around 2011 when I first got to meet him at a special event there.

He was always out participating in the community when he could. Health issues more recently made that tougher. He was out there sharing and just being an inspiration to so many, especially young people. He would take the time to sit with and chat and talk

about his experiences. That is very special because his service was an incredible experience in helping keep our Nation safe and helping free Europe in World War II. Not a lot of veterans want to talk about that publicly. It is difficult for them. He was the guy who could do that.

You see him here with his aircraft. He flew three different types of aircraft in World War II, but the one most known was his P-51 Mustang named the "Old Crow," of which there are replicas that you can see at certain air shows. I am very proud of that, and it is well known because of his amazing exploits.

We are very saddened by his passing, but our hearts are filled with what a great man and a nice man he was.

He would talk with us about engines and airplanes and the dogfighting in World War II that got him to that point of being a triple ace, and he would even talk about NASCAR racing.

Interestingly, there is a special edition Ford Mustang done up like his aircraft that he got to see, which was pretty cool as well. It was done, I think, by Roush Racing.

He was a northern California native. He grew up on a rural farm in Newcastle, and he loved to watch the airplanes back then.

He graduated from Placer High School in 1939 and earned his private pilot license in 1941 through the Civilian Pilot Training Program. In January of 1942, when duty called, he entered the U.S. Army aviation cadet program, receiving his wings that September of 1942.

In Europe, Bud served two combat tours, escorting heavy bombers in the P-51 from 1943 to 1945, which was some severe duty.

If you have ever watched any documentaries, the duty they had in those daylight raids to try to bomb Germany out of the war is incredible. Those "Little Friends," as these Mustangs were known, escorting those bombers in that difficult mission were indeed valuable and loved by them.

He flew 116 combat missions, 480 hours' worth, destroyed 16½ enemy aircraft, as they divided them up amongst a couple other pilots as well.

□ 1215

Bud flew in the 357th fighter group known as the Yoxford Boys and was the highest scoring ace in the 363rd fighter squadron. Bud came home from Europe and married Eleanor Cosby in 1945. They had two children, James Edward and Kathryn.

After the war, he became a fighter test pilot and later chief of fighter operations. He flew many models of early jet fighters and was involved in some very unusual flight test programs, including down at Edwards Air Force Base where much of that came from. He has flown over 130 types of aircraft and logged over 7,500 flying hours in his career.

He was also assigned in postwar Korea as a commander of a F-86 jet

fighter squadron there as well, commander in the F-105 wing in Okinawa, and two assignments at the Pentagon, as well.

Bud was decorated 25 times. His awards include 2 Legions of Merit, 5 Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Bronze Star, 16 Air Medals, the French Legion of Honor, and the French Croix de Guerre, as well as many other campaign service ribbons.

When Bud retired from the Air Force, he joined the McDonnell Aircraft Company and served for 12 years as the manager of the company's flight test facility there.

After his full retirement in 1984, Bud and Ellie moved back to Auburn where he continued to travel, hunt, fish, and speak at air shows and just be the great man we knew him as. God bless him. I am going to miss him personally. What a great friend he was. He was a great human being, and I am glad to have known him.

May God bless you, Bud, and hold you in His hands.

Fly high, my friend.

NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, the month of May was designated National Military Appreciation Month by an act of Congress introduced by the late Senator John McCain, a war hero from the State of Arizona.

Since then, throughout every May, our Nation observes a series of military events: On May 8, Victory in Europe Day, the date Nazi Germany surrendered in World War II; May 10, Military Spouse Appreciation Day, to recognize the exacting service of military spouses; and, May 18, Armed Forces Day, to honor the roughly 1.4 million people who serve as Active-Duty troops in all six branches and the 760,000 National Guard and Reserves, every one of them volunteers.

Lastly, on May 27, our Nation will observe its most solemn national holiday, Memorial Day, when across the country events will be held at military gravesites and veteran gathering places to remember and pray for those who gave their lives in defense of our Nation's freedoms and security.

Mr. Speaker, the definition of appreciation is to express gratitude. Gratitude can come in many forms, verbal, which certainly counts, but the most meaningful is tangible support for the disruption and sacrifice that the hard work of military service entails.

Mr. Speaker, I have the honor to represent eastern Connecticut, home to the largest military installation in New England, with 9,000 sailors, officers, and DOD support personal, the Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Connecticut, and the highest

concentration of veterans in the State of Connecticut.

Last week, I had the opportunity to attend a Veterans' Coffeehouse nearby the submarine base, a monthly event hosted at Filomena's, a restaurant owned and operated by Michael Buscetto, whose amazing staff and volunteers donate a piping hot breakfast to 50 or so local vets to share war stories, have a few laughs, and catch up on new developments for the veteran community. I was asked to provide a legislative update on a variety of those issues.

The most prominent was a progress report on the milestone PACT Act signed into law by President Biden in 2022 that finally knocked down barriers to healthcare and benefits to millions of veterans exposed to toxins during the Vietnam war, the Gulf war, radiation cleanup, and Camp Lejeune, the most significant expansion of benefits and services to toxic-exposed veterans ever.

Since the bill was signed, implementation has moved fast, as this chart shows. As of a few days ago, the VA reported that over 1 million PACT Act-related claims have now been granted, delivering more than \$5.7 billion of benefits to veterans and their survivors. Over 145,000 new veterans have enrolled in VA healthcare, and over 5.4 million free toxic exposure screenings were given to all veterans whether they are enrolled in the VA or not. The law was further expanded a few months ago, to include veterans who not only served overseas, but also those who only served in the continental U.S. and are suffering from the cancers and heart disease caused by toxic exposure.

I also briefed the coffeehouse on a new measure, which the House Armed Services Committee, on which I sit, will take up tomorrow, the Service-member Quality of Life Improvement Act as part of the annual National Defense Authorization Act. This bill, thanks to the bipartisan efforts of the Quality of Life Panel, will provide additional resources and new authorities for servicemembers and their families. This effort could not come too soon.

Last year, for the first time in over 20 years, the Air Force missed its Active Duty enlisted recruiting goal. The Army fell short of 10,000 enlisted recruits, and the Navy fell short over 7,000 enlisted sailors and 2,000 officers.

Included in this bill for tomorrow are authorities to alleviate pay discrepancies for junior enlisted servicemembers, combat food insecurity, support childcare, and spousal employment opportunities. Importantly, the bill authorizes a 19.5 percent increase in military pay for junior enlisted servicemembers.

The bill will also cover 100 percent of basic allowance for housing to ensure that servicemembers can cover the cost of housing no matter where they are stationed. It will also make the basic needs allowance available to all servicemembers with dependents whose in-

come is less than 200 percent of the poverty guidelines, making more servicemembers eligible for the program.

Incredibly, the panel documented that 25 percent of junior enlisted servicemembers today are forced to enroll in food stamps in order to put food on the table for their families.

Lastly, the DOD will be given the authority to transfer professional licenses between States for military spouses, and fully fund childcare fee assistance programs to eliminate wait lists for eligible families.

This is the sort of meaningful gratitude that truly adheres to the goals of Military Appreciation Month. As John McCain often quoted George Washington: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional to how they perceive how the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation."

These powerful and wise words are true today more than ever with an all-volunteer force, and we should finish the job for successful implementation of the PACT Act and pass this year's quality of life bill as soon as possible.

THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE COMMITTEE HAS SOLUTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, employers across all industries are looking for qualified workers to fill in-demand jobs. Job creators are consistently finding that skills-based credentials can successfully, oftentimes more effectively, prepare workers for success on the job.

It is not just employers who are recognizing the value of upskilling. A recent poll found that 82 percent of American voters are in favor of bolstering the Nation's workplace development programs.

The Education and Workforce Committee is proud to spearhead this effort with legislation like the A Stronger Workforce for America Act, which makes critical updates to the Nation's workforce development system.

Additionally, the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act will help connect low-income students and workers with the experiences and programs they need to gain relevant skills for in-demand jobs.

In conjunction, these pieces of legislation will be transformative for America's workforce and prepare more Americans for success in the 21st century economy.

DIGITAL ASSETS MARKET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Financial Innovation

and Technology for the 21st Century Act, or FIT21.

I am proud to have played a critical role in crafting this bipartisan legislation. As a member of the House Financial Services Committee, I worked with my fellow North Carolinian and Chairman PATRICK McHENRY and Digital Assets Subcommittee Chairman FRENCH HILL, to ensure this bill brings regulatory clarity to the digital assets market while protecting consumers, promoting innovation, and advancing U.S. national security.

The FIT for the 21st Century Act represents a bipartisan effort to regulate centralized intermediaries in the digital assets markets, prevent the next FTX, safeguard consumers, cement the U.S. as a global leader in finance and technology and promote a secure, innovative, and inclusive financial future.

This commonsense legislation is designed to stop another FTX from happening by giving regulators increased power over bad actors, filling regulatory gaps between the SEC Commission and CFTC, creating accountability through registration and disclosures, requiring companies to mitigate conflicts of interest, and requiring firms to segregate customer funds from their own.

This legislation provides the CFTC with the resources they requested to undertake the new rulemaking required by FIT21 and authorizes the CFTC to charge fees to intermediaries seeking to register.

This would be a big deal for the United States. Congress has never voted on a regulatory structure for crypto. In fact, we are operating under a 100-year-old securities law. We are the global leader in financial services and technology today. If we want to be the global leader in 50 years, then we need to pass the FIT for the 21st Century Act.

The legislation will allow the digital asset ecosystem to thrive in the United States, cementing American leadership of the global financial system and the next generation of the internet. Without this, the SEC's regulation by enforcement will push the industry overseas where Americans are not protected.

Additionally, I am proud to have secured an amendment to this legislation during the markup, supported by leaders in both parties on the Financial Services Committee, expressing the sense of Congress that the U.S. should seek to foster advances in this exciting new era of the internet to improve our financial system and create more fair and equitable access to Financial Services for everyday Americans.

Much like the dawn of the internet, this new blockchain technology sometimes feels like uncharted territory with immense possibilities. We are responsible for ushering in this new era in a way that harnesses innovation and ensures consumers are at the forefront.

Digital assets and blockchain technology have the potential to revolutionize our society. They can grow the economy, foster collaboration, enhance transparency, increase efficiency, and reduce transaction costs for working families.

Given the rapid pace of digital innovation, we must ensure these advancements are not at the cost of consumer safety.

FIT21 will address these challenges by establishing stricter regulatory requirements for emerging financial technologies and ensuring that these innovations are secure and transparent before they reach consumers.

Here is the reality: roughly 20 percent of Americans have invested, traded, or used crypto, so it is not going anywhere.

Unfortunately, the SEC's open hostility toward the digital assets industry is not serving President Biden's best interests. The SEC is turning cryptocurrency regulation into a political football and forcing President Biden to choose sides on an issue that matters to many Americans.

As a result, the U.S. is falling behind jurisdictions like the EU, U.K., Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, and the UAE. We can't afford to lose our status as the economic and technological powerhouse of the globe.

Whether you love crypto or you hate it, you should support regulation. The status quo just isn't working, and we can't wait until the next crisis to take action.

It is past time for Congress to act, and we have the opportunity to do this, this week, with the FIT for the 21st Century Act.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation to send a clear message that our priority lies in protecting consumers, cementing the U.S. as a global leader in finance and technology, and promoting an innovative and inclusive financial future.

SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to address a pertinent issue for all Americans, that being Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, it has been more than 50-plus years since Congress, the only body that can, has taken action to enhance Social Security.

What becomes even more confounding, Mr. Speaker, is that with 10,000 baby boomers a day becoming eligible for Social Security, Congress has not acted to enhance this program.

I was talking to my good friend, JODEY ARRINGTON, the other day, and reminded him that in his district in Texas, for example, he has 128,000 Social Security recipients, and 90,000 retirees, 9,000 children, almost 10,000 widows, 4,679 spouses, and 14,000-plus dis-

abled workers. They haven't received a benefit enhancement in more than 50 years.

Moreover, Social Security has nothing to do with the debt or deficit. It is an earned benefit. It is fully paid for, and the increases that we are calling for, well, the President said it best, we are going to pay for those by lifting the cap on \$400,000.

You could have people in the audience, for example, raise their hand if they are making more than \$400,000. I doubt that you would find anybody. It is about six-tenths of 1 percent, but most people are astounded to learn that there is a cap, and they haven't paid anything into the system, a system that all Americans pay into.

□ 1230

For example, Mr. Speaker, in Tennessee's Eighth District, 189,000 of your citizens receive Social Security benefits, and 136,000 of them are retirees, 25,000 disabled people, 4,000 spouses, and the list goes on.

Here is the most important thing: Your district gets \$330 million monthly. That goes into your district.

I say this to my colleagues and good friends on the other side of the aisle who are always talking about economic development: What better economic development tool is there than for your citizens to get payments?

Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. They haven't had an increase in more than 50 years.

This money would go right back into my colleagues' districts and be spent at the local grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the dry cleaners, to pay for rent or a mortgage, or to put gas in an automobile. The money all comes back, but Congress hasn't acted in over 50 years.

Mr. ARRINGTON at least says this about Social Security 2100, the bill that we have put forward: It enhances benefits across the board by 2 percent and repeals WEP and GPO.

Do you realize, Mr. Speaker, that there are more than 23 million Americans who pay taxes on their Social Security? My colleagues are quick to make sure that there is tax relief for billionaires. How about for people who are actually working for a living and then have to pay double taxation on their Social Security? Twenty-three million Americans.

There are 5 million Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the Federal Government, from Social Security, even though they have paid in all their quarters. Why? Because Congress hasn't taken action, the only body that can. The President can't do this through executive order. The Supreme Court isn't going to act. We need to act on a bill.

As Representative ARRINGTON says: Well, I don't agree with LARSON.

I said: What don't you agree with? If you have a better idea, put it forward.

At least he is honest enough to say they don't have a plan, that they

haven't written anything down on paper.

The American people not only need a plan, but what they need is help and relief. In this time of global inflation, in this time that is coming, it is long overdue for Congress to act.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, we pause to consider Your gracious invitation to enter into this day, and to live it understanding that we are Your beloved children.

Help us to see that this is not merely an invitation but a privilege, an honor, to discover that this is a day You have made for us to enjoy and employ. For with that privilege comes responsibility, the ability to respond to Your grace by responding with grace as we are able to the needs of others.

As Your children we are favored to have a relationship with You, established in Your righteousness and compassion. From that relationship, may we learn to bring the justice and mercy You have shown us, into all that we do.

Guide us then in the way You would have us go and grant us wisdom and discernment in our work, that the direction we take and the decisions we make would lead us ever closer to the peace and freedom You desire for all Your people.

In the strength of Your word we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of 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 Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNIZING APPLEWOLD, PENNSYLVANIA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Applewold, Pennsylvania, a tiny borough located along the Allegheny River across from Kittanning in Armstrong County.

Applewold is celebrating 125 years of being incorporated on Saturday, June 1.

While Applewold has officially been a borough for 125 years, it has had a front row seat for American history: playing a pivotal role in the Battle of Kittanning during the French and Indian War, witnessing the Pennsylvania Canal Kittanning Extension, and welcoming the railroad years later.

To celebrate this momentous anniversary, Applewold is celebrating in style with a parade and various speakers to mark the occasion.

Mr. Speaker, Applewold is a small but mighty municipality. In fact, based upon the last Census, the population is 344 people residing in 219 houses. It is our small boroughs like Applewold that make our district, our Commonwealth, and our country so great. Their enthusiasm to share their history allows us to keep telling stories of our past.

Congratulations to Applewold Borough on this anniversary.

BUFFALO BANDITS

(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, I rise today in celebration of the National Lacrosse League's Buffalo Bandits who just won their second league championship in a row over the weekend, in a 15-13 win over the Albany FireWolves, completing a sweep of the playoffs and winning their ninth game in a row.

On the bench, they were led by their head coach, Bandits legend John Tavares, among the greatest players to ever take the field in the NLL.

On the field, Josh Byrne, league MVP, led the way with 9 points in the championship game and 135 points throughout the season.

Other standouts this season include Dhane Smith, with 134 points, Chris Cloutier with 68 points, and Chase Fraser with 57 points.

This back-to-back championship is the Bandits' sixth in franchise history, putting them in a first place league-wide tie for the most titles, and hopefully setting an example for our other beloved teams, the Buffalo Bills and the Buffalo Sabres.

We congratulate the Bandits and thank them for, once again, making Buffalo and western New York proud.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, our forests are in crisis, and we must act with urgency on managing them and making them more fireproof.

In the past few years, for example, my district in northern California has seen the devastating effects of wildfires, from the Camp fire in 2018 where 85 people lost their lives, and the Dixie fire which consumed 1 million acres.

They are not just statistics. They represent real people, homes lost, and entire towns disappeared.

Yet funding alone is not going to be enough. We need more tools, we need more authorities, and we need categorical exclusions that will help move us into the forest more quickly, more broadly, and more effectively.

Pace and scale need to be dramatically increased, especially on Federal forest lands.

The 2024 farm bill promotes active forest management; yes, the farm bill, because USDA has the Forest Service aspect in that bill, as well. We need to do much acceleration of the process. We don't want to continue to see the West burn year after year. We need to put the jobs back in the forests where we used to have them 40 and 50 years ago.

The 2024 farm bill will enhance our ability to manage forests proactively, reduce fuel loads, and put people back to work in the West.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 20, 2024, at 1:55 p.m.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 109.

Appointment: United States Commission on International Religious Freedom.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 20, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on May 20, 2024, at 3:07 p.m., said to contain a message from the President regarding the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to the Stabilization of Iraq.

With best wishes, I am,
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk of the House.

**CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL
EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO
THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ—
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC.
NO. 118-143)**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003—as modified in scope and relied upon for additional steps taken in Executive Order 13290 of March 20, 2003, Executive Order 13315 of August 28, 2003, Executive Order 13350 of July 29, 2004, Executive Order 13364 of November 29, 2004, Executive Order 13438 of July 17, 2007, and Executive Order 13668 of May 27, 2014—is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2024.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13303 with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 20, 2024.

**APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO
THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEE ON INAUGURAL
CEREMONIES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to S. Con. Res. 34, 118th Congress, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies:

Mr. JOHNSON, Louisiana
Mr. SCALISE, Louisiana
Mr. JEFFRIES, New York

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1534

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia) at 3 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

**MODERNIZING GOVERNMENT
TECHNOLOGY REFORM ACT**

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5527) to amend section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 to increase the effectiveness of the Technology Modernization Fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5527

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act".

**SEC. 2. REALIGNING USE OF FUNDS WITH ORIGIN
NAL CONGRESSIONAL INTENT.**

Section 1078 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (Public Law 115-91; 40 U.S.C. 11301 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

"(3) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations

from the Board, use amounts in the Fund for the following:

"(i) To transfer such amounts, to remain available until expended, to the head of an agency for the acquisition, procurement, and operation of information technology, or the development of information technology when more efficient and cost effective, to—

"(I) modernize, retire, or replace legacy information technology systems used by the agency;

"(II) enhance cybersecurity and privacy at the agency;

"(III) improve long-term efficiency and effectiveness of agency information technology; or

"(IV) improve the ability of the agency to perform the mission of the agency and deliver services to the public.

"(ii) To provide services or work performed in support of—

"(I) the activities described in clause (i); and

"(II) the Board and the Director in carrying out the responsibilities described in subsection (c)(2).

"(iii) To fund only programs, projects, or activities, or to fund increases for any programs, projects, or activities that have not been denied or restricted by Congress.

"(iv) To transfer such amounts only for programs, projects, or activities that will be reimbursed to the Fund to the extent necessary to ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1).

"(B) TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF FUNDS.—The Administrator shall, in accordance with recommendations from the Board, suspend or terminate funding for any project with respect to which the head of an agency provided fraudulent or misleading statements about such project (including fraudulent statements about technical design, the business case, or program management with respect to the project) in the application or proposal for amounts from the Fund for such project.”;

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “or (B)”; and

(bb) by striking “(3)(C)” and inserting “(3)(A)(ii)”; and

(II) in clause (ii), by striking “, consistent with any applicable reprogramming law or guidelines of the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

(I) by striking “paragraph (3)(C)” and inserting “paragraph (3)(A)(ii)”; and

(II) by striking “the solvency of the Fund, including operating expenses” and inserting the following: “total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1)”;

(C) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter before clause (i), by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)” and inserting the following: “paragraph (3)(A)(i) and before any services or work are provided under paragraph (3)(A)(ii)(I)”;

(II) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “unless approved by the Director”; and

(bb) by striking “; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(III) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iv); and

(IV) by inserting after clause (i) the following new clauses:

“(ii) which shall include terms of repayment that require the head of the agency to reimburse the Fund for funds transferred

under paragraph (3)(A)(i) at a level that ensures total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1);

“(iii) which shall include terms of repayment that require the head of the agency to fully reimburse the Fund for any services or work provided under paragraph (3)(A)(ii) in direct support of the project; and”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

“(i) for any funds transferred to an agency under paragraph (3)(A)(i), in the absence of compelling circumstances documented by the Administrator at the time of transfer, that such funds shall be transferred only—

“(I) on an incremental basis, tied to metric-based development milestones achieved by the agency through the use of rapid, iterative, development processes; and

“(II) after the head of the agency has provided the Director any information the Director is required to report pursuant to paragraph (7)(A)(i); and”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (3)(A)(i)”; and

(bb) by striking “paragraph (6)” and inserting “this paragraph”;

(D) in paragraph (7)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)—

(I) by inserting “the written agreement entered into under paragraph (6),” after “description of the project.”; and

(II) by inserting “(including documented market research into commercial products and services)” after “used”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (i)—

(aa) by striking “establishing”; and

(bb) by striking “the cost savings associated with the projects funded both annually and over the life of the acquired products and services by the Fund;” and inserting the following: “the amount repaid to the Fund in accordance with the terms established in the written agreements described in paragraph (6);”;

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) by striking “reliability of the cost savings” and inserting “total cost savings”; and

(bb) by striking the semicolon and inserting “; and”; and

(III) in clause (iii), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (iv);

(2) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) in clause (ii), by striking “the greatest Governmentwide impact; and” and inserting the following: “the greatest impact on modernizing, retiring, or replacing Federal legacy information technology systems; and”;;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as clauses (ii) through (iv), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting before clause (ii), as so redesignated, the following new clause:

“(i) the ability for the head of the agency to ensure repayment of funds transferred from the Fund to the head of the agency, in accordance with subsection (b);”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “to improve or replace multiple information technology systems” and inserting the following: “to modernize, retire, or replace legacy information technology systems under subsection (b)(3)(A)(i);”;

(C) in subparagraph (F), by inserting after “subsection (b)(6)” the following: “or the identification of fraudulent or misleading statements about the project (including fraudulent statements about technical design, the business case, or program manage-

ment with respect to the project) in the application or proposal for amounts from the Fund for the project”; and

(D) in subparagraph (G), by inserting after “operating costs of the Fund” the following: “to ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1);”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following:

“(C) a senior official from the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security, appointed by the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, with the approval of the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.”;

(B) in paragraph (6)(A)—

(i) by striking “shall be—” and inserting “shall be 4 employees of the Federal Government primarily having technical expertise in information technology development, financial management, cybersecurity and privacy, and acquisition, appointed by the Director.”;

(ii) by striking clauses (i) and (ii); and

(4) in subsection (d)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(3)(A) and for products, services, and acquisition vehicles funded under subsection (b)(3)(B)” and inserting “subsection (b)(3)”; and

(B) in subparagraph (C), by inserting after “and reduce waste” the following: “and ensure total amounts in the Fund are no less than the amounts needed to keep the Fund operational until the Fund sunsets pursuant to subsection (g)(1);”;

(5) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(6) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER; AGENCY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS.—

“(1) AGENCY INVENTORY.—An agency Chief Information Officer, in coordination with stakeholders and other agency officials, shall provide to the Federal Chief Information Officer—

“(A) on or before the first September 30 that occurs after the date of the enactment of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act of 2023, a list of high-risk legacy information technology systems used, operated, or maintained by the agency, in accordance with the guidance issued under paragraph (4); and

“(B) on or before September 30 of each year after the first year in which the list is provided under subparagraph (A), any updates to such list.

“(2) LEGACY FEDERAL IT INVENTORY.—The Federal Chief Information Officer shall—

“(A) on or before the first December 30 that occurs after the date of the enactment of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act of 2023, compile a Legacy Federal IT Inventory on the basis of the each list provided by an agency Chief Information Officers under paragraph (1)(A) that includes information about each high-risk legacy information technology system used, operated, or maintained by an agency; and

“(B) on or before December 30 each year after the year in which the Legacy Federal IT Inventory is compiled, update such Inventory on the basis of each update to the list provided by an agency Chief Information Officer under paragraph (1)(B).

“(3) PRIORITIZATION LIST.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Federal Chief Information Officer shall—

“(i) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer receives the list required by paragraph (1)(A) from each agency Chief Information Officer, compile, on the basis of each such list, a list of 10 legacy information technology systems that present the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks to the Federal Government; and

“(ii) not later than 90 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer receives updates under paragraph (1)(B) from each agency Chief Information Officer, update the list required by subparagraph (A) on the basis of each updates to the list provided by agency Chief information Officers under paragraph (1)(B).

“(B) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 14 days after the date on which the Federal Chief Information Officer compiles the list required by subparagraph (A), or updates such list, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, and the Comptroller General of the United States, a report (which may include a classified annex) containing—

“(i) such list (including any update made to such list under subparagraph (A)(ii)); and

“(ii) each list provided by an agency Chief Information Officer under paragraph (1)(A) (including any update made to any such list under paragraph (1)(B)).

“(4) GUIDANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance on implementing the requirements of this subsection that shall, at a minimum—

“(i) prescribe an appropriate format for list to be provided under paragraph (1)(A);

“(ii) prescribe the information to be included in the Legacy Federal IT Inventory required by paragraph (2);

“(iii) provide guidance on how an agency Chief Information Officer should identify high-risk legacy information technology systems that, at least, requires agency Chief Information Officers, in coordination with other agency stakeholders, to identify as a high risk legacy information technology system any outdated or obsolete system of information technology that is critical to the agency such that the loss or degradation of the system would create a security, operational, or privacy risk to the agency or would otherwise impact the ability of the agency to perform the mission of the agency, effectively deliver programs, or conduct business; and

“(iv) provide guidance on how existing reporting structures can be used to submit the Legacy Federal IT inventory required by paragraph (2).

“(B) UPDATES.—The Director may update the guidance issued under subparagraph (A) as the Director determines necessary.

“(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) AGENCY CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—The term ‘agency Chief Information Officer’ means a Chief Information Officer designated under section 3506(a)(2) of title 44, United States Code.

“(B) FEDERAL CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER.—The term ‘Federal Chief Information Officer’ means the Administrator of the Office of Electronic Government.”; and

(7) in subsection (g)(1), as so redesignated, by striking “On and after the date that is 2 years after the date on which the Comptroller General of the United States issues the third report required under subsection (b)(7)(B),” and inserting “After December 31, 2031.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5527.

The Technology Modernization Fund, or the TMF, was established by the bipartisan, Republican-led Modernizing Government Technology Act of 2017.

The TMF was established because it can be difficult to plan and budget for Federal legacy IT upgrades through the annual appropriations cycle.

The TMF addresses this problem by acting as a self-sustaining funding mechanism to assist agencies with legacy IT modernization projects that span multiple fiscal years.

The Federal Government depends on IT systems for everything from national defense to the administration of benefits programs.

Over the course of this Congress, the House Oversight Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation has heard from current and former government officials about the risks and costs associated with Federal legacy IT systems.

These risks include cyberattacks targeted toward highly vulnerable legacy systems that house sensitive public data. These half-century-old IT systems are prime targets for malicious actors and enemy nation-states.

My bill, the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act, enhances the Technology Modernization Fund by ensuring a sustainable financing tool for fixing costly and risky legacy IT systems.

The TMF has strayed from the original congressional intent established by the bipartisan law Congress passed. It does not consistently require agencies to repay their awards, an operational policy decision made by the administration which has put a strain on TMF's resources and hindered the fund's ability to help address future legacy IT modernization projects.

With this legislation, we will refocus the TMF on the longstanding need to replace legacy IT systems and address our cybersecurity risks.

The reforms made to the TMF by H.R. 5527 also prioritize fiscal responsibility and are common sense. Let's run through some of them quickly in the bill:

This will require TMF awards to be reimbursed at a rate sufficient to keep the fund operational through 2031.

It requires the TMF to recover all administrative costs that projects incur.

It requires the TMF to suspend or terminate project funding if fraudulent or misleading statements were used to obtain funds.

It provides agencies more flexibility to repay the TMF.

It increases the visibility into TMF awards by requiring written agreements governing each award to be made publicly available.

This legislation also requires each agency to conduct an inventory of its legacy IT systems, creating a new oversight tool to ensure the Federal Government is addressing the problem of legacy IT systems.

Reforming the TMF is necessary to ensure it remains a sustainable, revolving fund that can be used to address the costly challenge of modernizing legacy IT into the future.

This is smart and timely reform. This is a fair and balanced reauthorization.

I am grateful to my colleagues Representatives CONNOLLY and KHANNA for their support and collaboration on this effort. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the distinguished gentlewoman from South Carolina for her great leadership on this as well as Mr. CONNOLLY from Virginia for his very hard work on it, too.

In this century, public confidence in the Federal Government depends on ensuring that our Federal information technology systems and websites are secure, safe, and effective. We invest more than \$100 billion every year in Federal IT needs. Outdated legacy IT systems and infrastructure are costly to maintain and very challenging to secure against the onslaught of cyberattacks by adversaries and criminal organizations. The constantly changing landscape of information technology requires resources if Federal agencies are going to be able to protect data privacy, complete their missions, and effectively serve our people.

The Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act would ensure this important work continues smoothly by extending the Technology Modernization Fund's sunset from December 2025 to December 2031. It would also clarify the use of funds and maintain the repayment flexibility adopted by the Technology Modernization Fund, known as the TMF, in recent years while ensuring its solvency by setting minimum reimbursement requirements.

Additionally, the bill sets requirements for regularly updated inventories and lists of legacy Federal IT systems and high-risk Federal IT systems, as well as of the legacy systems that present the greatest security, privacy, and operational risks.

This timely and comprehensive picture of the Federal Government's most

serious IT modernization needs will inform the ability of the TMF, the administration, and Congress to make the best investments.

The TMF provides a self-sustaining funding model that has become an essential tool for Federal agencies to address these challenges. It supplies up-front funding for IT projects in exchange for future reimbursement once a project's cost savings are realized, allowing agencies the flexibility they need to address modernization needs outside of the traditional budget cycle.

The TMF also instills accountability safeguards to ensure that taxpayers are getting strong returns on our investments. Projects are selected for funding after rigorous review by the TMF board of technology experts, and written funding agreements outline specific requirements and milestones that have to be met. Funds are distributed incrementally based on performance as assessed by quarterly reviews by the board, and technical experts provide hands-on support toward successful execution of the projects.

Committee Democrats have supported robust oversight and funding for the TMF, including a historic \$1 billion investment through the American Rescue Plan. With this infusion, high-priority projects were also allowed reduced repayment requirements, if warranted. Since the infusion of these moneys, the TMF has received more than 220 agency proposals requesting more than \$3.5 billion, far outpacing our funding availability.

To date, the TMF has provided over \$900 million to 57 IT modernization projects across 32 agencies, and the Biden-Harris administration has embraced it as an indispensable tool to better serve the American people.

For example, TMF funding is helping to digitize veterans' records, ensuring that more than 1 million people and their family members who reach out to the National Archives and Records Administration every year get timely access to the documents they need to verify their qualification for important lifesaving benefits.

TMF funding is also expediting the speed and safety of food inspection at the USDA, leading to better meals for school kids and servicemembers alike. TMF funding also better secures all of our personal data at the Social Security Administration and the Department of Education.

I thank Representatives Mace and Connolly for their great work on this important project. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from South Carolina for the time.

I rise today in support of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act. It is no secret that America's cyber infrastructure is under constant

attack by our adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

FBI Director Christopher Wray recently warned Americans of the cyber threat that China poses, declaring that China's hackers are preparing to wreak havoc and cause real-world harm to American citizens and communities.

□ 1545

Yet, despite warning after warning of the rising threats to our Nation's cyber infrastructure, our Federal agencies remain dangerously vulnerable to future, potentially devastating cyberattacks.

Every year, the Federal Government spends over \$100 billion on IT and cybersecurity. Nonetheless, 80 percent of this spending goes to operating and maintaining outdated, obsolete legacy systems. These aging systems not only waste taxpayer money but also leave us exposed to our enemies.

These IT systems also require specific technical knowledge to operate and update, which creates enormous procurement and hiring challenges, leaving agencies scrambling to find vendors and employees with the necessary skills. In addition to the upfront costs associated with updating legacy IT, many of these systems continue to run with known security vulnerabilities and unsupported hardware or software. This is a ticking time bomb.

In an effort to bring the Federal Government up to speed with the challenges of modern-day cyber threats, Congress established the technology modernization fund to help eliminate these vulnerabilities and provide funding to improve, retire, or replace antiquated Federal IT systems and strengthen our agencies' cyber defenses, all without additional expense to the American taxpayer.

That is why reauthorizing and reforming the technology modernization fund is essential to our future success. Under this legislation, Federal agencies can continue the modernization process and adopt newer, safer technology in a rapidly advancing and increasingly dangerous world, all with greater congressional oversight to keep these efforts on track.

As my colleagues have already mentioned, this bill also establishes a Federal legacy IT inventory, a new oversight tool that will enable Congress to evaluate agency and government-wide efforts to modernize legacy IT technology and ensure that such critical modernization efforts are being done the right way.

Madam Speaker, our national security is at stake. We can't afford to become complacent while our adversaries plot against us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take our cybersecurity seriously and support H.R. 5527.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers. I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, I urge everybody to support this fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 5527 helps ensure the TMF can continue to address the legacy IT modernization efforts reducing Federal cyber risk and inefficiencies in Government operations.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues, again, across the aisle for their support. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this very necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act (H.R. 5527) and thank Chairwoman Mace for partnering with me on this very important piece of legislation.

In 2017, Republican Representative Will Hurd and I coauthored the original MGT Act, which did two fundamental things.

First, it authorized all CFO Act agencies to establish IT Working Capital Funds (WCF), which the Subcommittee has historically tracked through the FITARA Scorecard.

Second, the bill established a centralized Technology Modernization Fund (TMF) and a governing board for the TMF.

While we have never been able to get sufficient support for the TMF from our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, the Biden Administration saw the value of the Fund when it requested \$9 billion for the TMF as part of its COVID recovery plan.

We were ultimately able to secure \$1 billion in the American Rescue Plan Act (117-2).

The TMF has used that funding to help bring agencies into the 21st century.

Examples include digitizing the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) customer support and Better Veterans Benefits Management systems, modernizing the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) website, and implementing a zero-trust architecture at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Building off the original MGT Act's success, the MGT Reform Act will extend the authorization for the TMF through 2031 and sustain this critical IT investment tool for federal agencies.

The bill also directs agencies to create legacy federal IT inventories that includes information about each high-risk legacy information technology system used, operated, or maintained by an agency.

This legacy federal IT inventory provision could be critical to finally retiring all unsupported and costly legacy systems from government use.

We cannot afford to wait until we are in the midst of the next global disaster to modernize federal IT.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes on the passage of the Modernizing Government Technology Reform Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5527, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY IMPROVEMENT ACT

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5887) to amend chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, to improve Government service delivery, and build related capacity for the Federal Government, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5887

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Government Service Delivery Improvement Act".

SEC. 2. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

"§ 321. Definitions

"In this subchapter:

"(1) AGENCY.—The term 'agency' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44.

"(2) DIRECTOR.—The term 'Director' means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

"(3) GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.—The term 'Government service delivery' means any action by an agency related to providing a benefit or service to an individual, business, or organization (such as a grantee or State, local, or Tribal entity), including any such action of a contractor or nonprofit organization acting on behalf of the agency or administering a federally-funded program.

"(4) GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY CHANNEL.—The term 'Government service delivery channel' means the format or medium of an interaction or transaction with the Federal Government, including in-person, through the mail, through a digital service, by telephone, through a contact center, on a website, through outreach and communication, and through collaboration with a third party, or through other ways in which an individual or entity significantly interacts with the Federal Government.

"(5) HIGH IMPACT SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term 'high impact service provider' means an agency program identified by the Director due to the scale and impact of the public-facing services of the program.

"§ 322. Federal Government service delivery

"(a) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY LEAD.—The Director shall designate or appoint a senior official as the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead within the Office of Management and Budget whose responsibility is to coordinate governmentwide efforts to improve Government service delivery by agencies. The individual shall have the following duties and authorities:

"(1) Facilitate and coordinate governmentwide efforts to improve Government service delivery provided by agencies, particularly with respect to high impact service providers.

"(2) Carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Director.

"(3) Serve as the lead, governmentwide official responsible for supporting Government service delivery.

"(4) Advise the Director concerning the improvement of Government service delivery provided by agencies.

“(5) In consultation with each lead agency service delivery official and any other agency stakeholder as appropriate, develop and oversee the implementation of government-wide Government service delivery standards, policies, and guidelines for services and programs provided by agencies, including standards, policies, and guidelines to—

“(A) understand the needs of an individual, business, or organization interacting with an agency;

“(B) solicit and consider voluntary feedback on the Government service delivery by the agency;

“(C) assess Government service delivery processes;

“(D) consider the factors of ease, efficiency, transparency, accessibility, fairness, burden (as defined in section 3502 of title 44), and duration, including wait and processing times, with respect to Government service delivery; and

“(E) encourage the adoption of commercial products and services in accordance with section 3307 of title 41.

“(6) Collect and report qualitative and quantitative information or data on Government service delivery through existing reporting mechanisms.

“(7) Evaluate the quality of Government service delivery, including through the establishment of performance metrics developed using the standards, policies, and guidelines developed pursuant to paragraph (5) and the information or data collected and reported pursuant to paragraph (6).

“(8) Engage with stakeholders to identify leading practices in service design and delivery that would improve Government service delivery across and within agencies.

“(9) Ensure agency service delivery initiatives, including those related to the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (15 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336), are identified in agency congressional budget justifications.

“(10) Coordinate with Office of Management and Budget stakeholders and other agency stakeholders on Government service delivery.

“(11) In collaboration with relevant agency officials as appropriate, and in coordination with relevant Office of Management and Budget stakeholders, ensure that websites of agencies, including those associated with high impact service providers, are consistent with the objectives of this subchapter, the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act, and any other applicable law.

§ 323. Lead agency officials for Government service delivery

“(a) RESPONSIBILITY FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY.—The head of each agency shall be responsible for the Government service delivery of the agency which shall, at a minimum, include improving and enhancing Government services to better achieve the mission of the agency and build and maintain trust, transparency, and accountability.

“(b) LEAD AGENCY SERVICE DELIVERY OFFICIALS.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subchapter, the head of each agency shall designate or appoint a senior official of the agency (who may be the deputy head of the agency) to implement this subchapter who shall have the following duties and authorities:

“(1) Report directly to the head or deputy head of the agency.

“(2) Possess sufficient operational authority to effectuate implementation of Government service delivery improvements within the agency, particularly with respect to high impact service providers.

“(3) Coordinate and execute, as appropriate, under the direction of the head of the agency, and in collaboration with relevant

agency officials as appropriate, efforts to improve and enhance the Government service delivery and Government service delivery channels of the agency.

“(4) At the direction of the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, submit an implementation plan for improving agency Government service delivery.

“(5) Coordinate the collection and reporting of the data and information required pursuant to section 322 and use such data and information to improve Government service delivery.

“(6) Facilitate collaboration among and between offices, and components within the agency and with other agencies as appropriate, in coordination with the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, to improve and enhance Government service delivery.

“(7) Assist with the implementation by the agency of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (15 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336).

“(8) Assist in the incorporation of the Government service delivery requirements established under this subchapter in agency plans (such as strategic plans or annual performance plans).

§ 324. Rule of construction

“Nothing in this subchapter may be construed to diminish or reduce the authority of agency Chief Information Officers for information resources management provided in section 11315 of title 40 or those authorities to manage information resources to accomplish agency missions as established in section 3502 of title 44.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SUBCHAPTER III—FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY

“321. Definitions.

“322. Federal Government service delivery.

“323. Lead agency officials for Government service delivery.

“324. Rule of construction”.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) Specific recommendations to further the implementation and effectiveness of such subchapter.

(d) AGENCY REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead, shall submit to the relevant congressional committees a report that includes the following:

(1) An assessment on the implementation and effectiveness of subchapter III of chapter 3 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(2) Specific recommendations to further the implementation and effectiveness of such subchapter.

(3) A summary and assessment of the usefulness of the metrics such subchapter requires the Federal Government Service Delivery Lead to establish and report for the purpose of assessing the quality of Government service delivery provided by agencies, including metrics to assess the efforts of high impact service providers in improving services.

(e) NO NEW FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No new funds are authorized to be appropriated by this Act or any amendment made by this Act

and the head of each agency shall comply with this Act and any amendment made by this Act using existing funds.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means each agency listed in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(2) GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY; HIGH IMPACT SERVICE PROVIDER.—The terms “Government service delivery” and “high impact service provider” have the meaning given those terms in section 321 of title 5, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

(3) RELEVANT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “relevant congressional committees” means the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5887.

Outdated bureaucratic government processes make it challenging and costly to deliver government services. This wastes taxpayer dollars and creates opportunities for fraud and abuse.

These processes do not change because Federal agencies lack a single, designated official that Congress can hold accountable for program service delivery, including agency-wide backlogs, unprocessed applications, or improperly delivered benefits.

Many agency officials, program managers, policymakers, and human resource managers, are responsible for specific parts of the problem, but developing solutions to poor government service delivery will require someone to be responsible for agency-wide coordination.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act addresses this problem by requiring the Office of Management and Budget and Federal agencies to designate a senior official accountable for improving government service delivery and facilitating process reforms.

The government-wide official will develop standards, policies, and performance metrics to ensure agency progress.

Also under the bill, senior agency officials designated to be responsible for improving government service delivery will also be required to coordinate with other existing agency officials, such as

the chief information officer, chief procurement officer, and program managers as they work to improve agency operations and implement policy reforms.

H.R. 5887's expansion of the Bipartisan 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act of 2018 will improve congressional oversight over the administration's government service delivery reform efforts.

I am thankful for the work of my colleagues, Representatives KHANNA and TIMMONS, for their work on this important legislation. Of course, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentlewoman, again, from South Carolina, and I thank my wonderful colleague from California, Mr. RO KHANNA, for his leadership on H.R. 5887, the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act. I am really proud to declare our support for this bipartisan legislation.

Federal Government services should be accessible and responsive to the American people. This means ensuring agencies have the resources and staffing they need to fulfill their missions, as well as the infrastructure and technology they need to have effective interactions with the public. Committee Democrats have fought for adequate funding so that the government makes the necessary Federal IT modernization investments that our agencies need to deliver for the people. It also means strengthening and standardizing Federal agencies' efforts to improve the delivery of government services.

Mr. KHANNA's bill would create a Federal Government service delivery lead position in the Office of Management and Budget to coordinate government-wide efforts to improve the delivery of services. Working with lead service delivery officials designated at each Federal agency, the service delivery lead at OMB would develop and oversee the implementation of government-wide standards, policies, and guidelines to improve government service delivery, and would evaluate agency progress, including by collecting and reporting information, data, and metrics.

This bipartisan bill will help ensure the Federal government is providing the best service possible to the people and that it is acting in transparent, methodical, and accountable ways to improve our delivery of government services.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 5887.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act, H.R. 5887. I did want to say a word

about our ranking member. I appreciate his support, but I have also come to appreciate at these times his erudition from the House floor. Every time he speaks about history, I learn something, and I have really appreciated his leadership and statements recently.

I appreciate Representative MACE, Representative TIMMONS, Representatives DONALDS, LOUDERMILK, and, of course, our Ranking Members RASKIN and CONNOLLY for truly making this a bipartisan effort, and Selene Ceja on our team and the Oversight and Accountability Committee staff who have been incredible on both sides.

I am proud to say that this bipartisan legislation passed unanimously in the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability with a vote of 44-0.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act builds upon the progress made by the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience, or 21st Century IDEA. While the IDEA Act primarily focused on digital services, this bill takes the next step by addressing all service channels, including online, in-person, and by phone.

What sets this bill apart is its whole-of-government approach. It recognizes that improving service delivery requires collaboration. The bill directs the head of Federal agencies to each designate a senior official responsible for improving services, and it requires the Office of Management and Budget to select a senior official to coordinate efforts across Federal agencies.

We really appreciated working with the OMB and with both the Democratic and Republican oversight staffs who have been excellent. These officials will help agencies implement best practices, measure progress, and enhance coordination.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act prioritizes constituents' experience by mandating agencies to incorporate service delivery into their strategic plan.

Madam Speaker, the Government Service Delivery Improvement Act represents a significant step forward in creating a more responsive, efficient, and service-delivery oriented Federal Government. It is a commonsense approach to improving government services.

I thank, again, Representative MACE, who has always been a pleasure to work with, and our lead, Ranking Member RASKIN.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting "yes" on H.R. 5887.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. TIMMONS).

Mr. TIMMONS. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague, RO KHANNA, for his leadership on this bill.

Over the past year and a half, the Oversight and Accountability Committee has investigated numerous instances of our government failing to provide adequate service to the American people. From passport backlogs to

delays for veterans requesting personnel records, we simply need to do better.

As Members of Congress, some of our most rewarding work is helping our constituents who are caught up in the web of government red tape. Whether they are a small business trying to get records from the IRS, someone in need of an emergency passport, or a senior requiring a long overdue answer from Social Security, our assistance is often how we make our most immediate impact on our communities. However, frankly, many of these issues we deal with most shouldn't require our assistance at all. They are a failure of agencies to prioritize innovation and customer service.

In order to fix this failure, this Government Service Delivery Improvement Act tasks OMB with designating a senior official to coordinate agency efforts to work more efficiently and deliver services in a timely and unwasteful manner. This bill will also require the designation of a senior official for every Federal agency that will be responsible for improving the service delivery of that particular agency.

This bill allows Congress to further hold agency heads accountable to drive necessary changes, enhance services, and ultimately foster greater trust with the people they serve.

The Government Service Delivery Improvement Act isn't just about streamlining processes, it is about rebuilding trust between the government and its people. It is about ensuring that when Americans turn to their government for assistance, they are met with efficiency, reliability, and, above all, respect.

With that, Madam Speaker, I, again, thank my friend, Mr. KHANNA, for his leadership on this bill and Chairman MACE for her assistance in bringing this to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members of this House to support the bill.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I urge everyone to support the legislation, and I yield the back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. In closing, Madam Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill which will improve Federal Government programs service delivery for the American people, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5887, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL PRISON OVERSIGHT ACT

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 3019) to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3019

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Federal Prison Oversight Act”.

SEC. 2. CREATION OF AN INSPECTIONS REGIME FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 413 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INSPECTIONS REGIME.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(i) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

“(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives.

“(B) BUREAU.—The term ‘Bureau’ means the Bureau of Prisons.

“(C) COVERED FACILITY.—The term ‘covered facility’—

“(i) means a correctional facility operated by the Bureau; and

“(ii) does not include a post-incarceration residential re-entry center.

“(D) FAMILY ADVOCATE.—The term ‘family advocate’ includes—

“(i) a grandparent, parent, sibling, spouse or domestic partner, child, aunt, uncle, cousin, niece, nephew, grandchild, or any other person related to an individual by blood, adoption, marriage, civil union, a romantic or fostering relationship; or

“(ii) a friend of—

“(I) the incarcerated person; or

“(II) the family of the incarcerated person.

“(E) INSPECTOR GENERAL.—The term ‘Inspector General’ means the Inspector General of the Department of Justice.

“(F) OMBUDSMAN.—The term ‘Ombudsman’ means the Ombudsman established under paragraph (3)(A).

“(G) REPRESENTATIVE OF AN INCARCERATED PERSON.—The term ‘representative of an incarcerated person’ includes paid or unpaid legal counsel or any other person or entity chosen by an incarcerated person to represent the interests of the incarcerated person.

“(H) SEXUAL ABUSE.—The term ‘sexual abuse’ has the meaning given that term in section 115.6 of title 28, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto).

“(I) STAFF.—The term ‘staff’ means employees and contractors of the Bureau.

“(2) INSPECTIONS OF COVERED FACILITIES BY THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTIONS REGIME.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General shall conduct periodic inspections of covered facilities pursuant to the requirements of this subsection.

“(ii) ACCESS TO COVERED FACILITIES.—The Attorney General shall ensure that the Inspector General has access to—

“(I) any covered facility (including the incarcerated people, detainees, staff, bargaining unit representative organization) in accordance with paragraph (4); and

“(II) any other information that the Inspector General determines is necessary to carry out the provisions of this subsection.

“(iii) NOTICE OF INSPECTIONS.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection may be announced or unannounced.

“(iv) COMMUNITY INPUT.—In developing the inspections regime under this subsection, the Inspector General is encouraged to consult formerly incarcerated people, family or representatives of incarcerated people, and community advocates.

“(B) INSPECTION CRITERIA.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection may include an assessment of the following:

“(i) The policies, procedures, and administrative guidance of the facility.

“(ii) The conditions of confinement.

“(iii) Working conditions for staff.

“(iv) The availability of evidence-based recidivism reduction programs and productive activities, as such terms are defined in section 3635 of title 18, and the application of earned time credits pursuant to section 3632 of title 18.

“(v) The policies and procedures relating to visitation.

“(vi) The policies and practices relating to classification and housing.

“(vii) The policies and practices relating to the use of single-cell confinement, administrative segregation, and other forms of restrictive housing.

“(viii) The medical facilities and medical and mental health care, programs, procedures, and policies, including the number and qualifications of medical and mental health staff and the availability of sex-specific and trauma-responsive care for incarcerated people.

“(ix) Medical services and mental health resources for staff.

“(x) Lockdowns at the facility.

“(xi) Credible allegations of incidents involving excessive use of force, completed, attempted, or threatened violence, including sexual abuse, or misconduct committed against incarcerated people.

“(xii) Credible allegations of incidents involving completed, attempted, or threatened violence, including sexual violence or sexual abuse, committed against staff.

“(xiii) Adequacy of staffing at the covered facility, including the number and job assignments of staff, the ratio of staff to inmates at the facility, the staff position vacancy rate at the facility, and the use of overtime, mandatory overtime, and augmentation.

“(xiv) Deaths or serious injuries of incarcerated people or staff that occurred at the facility.

“(xv) The existence of contraband that jeopardizes the health or safety of incarcerated people or staff, including incident reports, referrals for criminal prosecution, and confirmed prosecutions.

“(xvi) Access of incarcerated people to—

“(I) legal counsel, including confidential meetings and communications;

“(II) discovery and other case-related legal materials; and

“(III) the law library at the covered facility.

“(xvii) Any aspect of the operation of the covered facility that the Inspector General determines to be necessary over the course of an inspection.

“(C) INSPECTION SCHEDULE.—An inspection of a covered facility under this subsection shall be conducted on a schedule based on the combined risk score of the covered facility as described in subparagraph (E) and the following considerations:

“(i) Higher risk facilities shall receive more frequent inspections.

“(ii) The Inspector General shall reevaluate the combined risk score methodology and inspection schedule periodically and may alter 1 or both to ensure that higher risk facilities are identified and receiving the appropriate frequency of inspection.

“(iii) A determination by the Inspector General that 1 or more of the criteria listed

in subparagraph (B) should be inspected, with regard to a covered facility or group of covered facilities.

“(D) REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the completion of an inspection of a covered facility under this subsection, or a group of inspections that assess the same or similar issues at more than 1 facility, the Inspector General shall submit a final copy of the report to the Attorney General, the appropriate congressional committees, employee representative organizations, and the public, that addresses 1 or more of the following topics:

“(I) A characterization of the conditions of confinement and working conditions, including a summary of the inspection criteria reviewed under clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (B).

“(II) Recommendations made to the covered facility to improve safety and conditions within the facility, including recommendations regarding staffing.

“(III) A recommended timeline for the next inspection and assessment, which shall not limit the authority of the Inspector General to perform additional inspections and assessments, announced or unannounced.

“(IV) Any other issues or matters identified during the inspection of the facility or facilities.

“(ii) CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS.—In developing the recommendations described in clause (i), the Inspector General may consult with stakeholders, including employee representative organizations.

“(E) RISK SCORE.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, the Inspector General shall establish methodology and protocols for determining the combined risk score of a covered facility, which—

“(i) shall be delivered to the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(ii) may be based on—

“(I) frequency and duration of lockdowns;

“(II) availability of programming;

“(III) staffing levels;

“(IV) access to adequate physical and mental health resources;

“(V) incidences of physical assault, neglect, or sexual abuse;

“(VI) opportunity to maintain family ties through phone calls, video calls, mail, email, and visitation;

“(VII) adequacy of the nutrition provided;

“(VIII) amount or frequency of staff discipline cases;

“(IX) amount or frequency of misconduct by people incarcerated at the covered facility;

“(X) access of incarcerated people to—

“(aa) legal counsel, including confidential meetings and communications;

“(bb) discovery and other case-related legal materials; and

“(cc) the law library at the covered facility; and

“(XI) other factors as determined by the Inspector General.

“(F) BUREAU RESPONSE TO REPORT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which the Inspector General issues a report under subparagraph (D), the Bureau shall respond in writing to the inspection report, which shall include a corrective action plan.

“(ii) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each response and action plan described in clause (i) shall be made available to the public on the website of the Inspector General.

“(iii) COMPLIANCE WITH CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN.—The Inspector General may conduct additional inspections or investigations, announced or unannounced, to monitor the compliance of the Bureau with a corrective action plan described in clause (i).

“(G) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority in this paragraph is consistent with and does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the authority provided to the Inspector General under section 406.

“(3) OMBUDSMAN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, the Attorney General shall establish in the Department of Justice an Ombudsman who may—

“(i) receive a complaint from an incarcerated person, a family advocate, a representative of an incarcerated person, staff, a representative of staff, a Member of Congress, or a member of the judicial branch of the Federal Government regarding issues that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of incarcerated people or staff, including—

“(I) abuse or neglect;

“(II) the conditions of confinement, including the availability of health care;

“(III) working conditions of staff;

“(IV) decisions, administrative actions, or guidance of the Bureau, including those relating to prison staffing;

“(V) inaction or omissions by the Bureau, including failure to consider or respond to complaints or grievances by incarcerated people or staff promptly or appropriately;

“(VI) policies, rules, or procedures of the Bureau, including gross mismanagement; and

“(VII) alleged violations of non-criminal law by staff or incarcerated people that may adversely affect the health, safety, welfare, or rights of any person;

“(ii) refer a complainant and others to appropriate resources or Federal agencies;

“(iii) make inquiries and recommend actions to appropriate entities on behalf of a complainant, the Ombudsman, or others; and

“(iv) decline to investigate or take any action with respect to any complaint in, in any case in which the Ombudsman declines to investigate or take any action, shall notify the complainant in writing of the decision not to investigate or take any action and the reasons for the decision.

“(B) LIMITATIONS ON AUTHORITY.—The Ombudsman—

“(i) may not investigate—

“(I) any complaints relating to the underlying criminal conviction of an incarcerated person;

“(II) a complaint from staff that relates to the employment or contractual relationship of the staff member with the Bureau, unless the complaint is related to the health, safety, welfare, working conditions, gross mismanagement of a covered facility, or rehabilitation of incarcerated people; or

“(III) any allegation of criminal or administrative misconduct, as described in subsection (b)(2), and shall refer any matter covered by subsection (b)(2) to the Inspector General, who may, at the discretion of Inspector General, refer such allegations back to the Ombudsman or the internal affairs office of the appropriate component of the Department of Justice; and

“(ii) may not levy any fees for the submission or investigation of complaints.

“(C) DECISION ON THE MERITS OF A COMPLAINT.—At the conclusion of an investigation of a complaint, the Ombudsman shall—

“(i) render a decision on the merits of each complaint;

“(ii) communicate the decision to the complainant, if any, and to the Bureau; and

“(iii) state the recommendations and reasoning of the Ombudsman if, in the opinion of the Ombudsman, the Bureau or any employee thereof should—

“(I) consider the matter further;

“(II) modify or cancel any action;

“(III) alter a rule, practice, or ruling;

“(IV) explain in detail the administrative action in question; or

“(V) rectify an omission.

“(D) ACTIONS FOLLOWING A DECISION BY THE OMBUDSMAN.—

“(i) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ACTIONS TAKEN.—If the Ombudsman so requests, the Bureau shall, within the time specified, respond to any inquiry or request for information from the Ombudsman and inform the Ombudsman about any action taken on the recommendations provided by the Ombudsman or the reasons for not complying with any request for information or recommendations.

“(ii) REPORTING OF CONTINUING ISSUES.—If the Ombudsman believes, based on an investigation conducted by the Ombudsman, that there has been or continues to be a significant health, safety, welfare, working conditions, or rehabilitation issue, the Ombudsman shall report the finding to the Attorney General and the appropriate congressional committees.

“(iii) MONITORING OF INTERNAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS OF THE BUREAU.—In the event that the Bureau conducts an internal disciplinary investigation or review of 1 or more staff members of the Bureau as a result of an investigation by the Ombudsman, the Ombudsman may monitor the internal disciplinary action to ensure a fair and objective process.

“(4) INSPECTOR GENERAL AND OMBUDSMAN ACCESS TO BUREAU OF PRISONS FACILITIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) ACCESS TO BUREAU FACILITIES.—Except as provided in clause (ii), upon demand, in person or in writing and with or without prior notice, the Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall be granted access to all Bureau facilities, which shall include—

“(I) all areas that are used by incarcerated people, all areas that are accessible to incarcerated people, and access to programs for incarcerated people at any time of day; and

“(II) the opportunity to—

“(aa) conduct private and confidential interviews with any incarcerated person, staff, employee representative organization, or other person; and

“(bb) communicate privately and confidentially, both formally and informally, with incarcerated people or staff by telephone, mail, electronic communication, and in person, which shall not be monitored or recorded by or conducted in the presence of staff.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—Clause (i) shall not apply in situations where the head of the covered facility provides evidence to the Inspector General or the Ombudsman that there is risk of serious and immediate physical harm to visitors due to an ongoing event that requires restricting access to the facility.

“(B) PURPOSE OF VISITS.—Access to Bureau facilities under subparagraph (A) is for the purposes of—

“(i) conducting announced or unannounced inspections by the Inspector General as described in paragraph (2), including inspections to monitor the compliance of the Bureau with a corrective action plan described in paragraph (2)(F)(i);

“(ii) conducting an investigation or other activity by the Ombudsman as described in paragraph (3); and

“(iii) inspecting, viewing, photographing, and video recording all areas of the facility that are used by incarcerated people or are accessible to incarcerated people.

“(C) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman have the right to access, inspect, and copy all relevant information, records, or documents in the possession or control of the Bureau that either the Inspector General or the Ombudsman considers necessary in an inspection, investigation, or

other activity, and the Bureau shall assist the Inspector General and the Ombudsman in obtaining the necessary releases for those documents that are specifically restricted or privileged for use by the Bureau.

“(ii) PRODUCTION OF RECORDS.—Following notification from the Inspector General or the Ombudsman with a written demand for access to Bureau records, the Bureau shall provide access to the requested documentation in a manner consistent with section 552a (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’)—

“(I) not later than 30 business days after receipt of the written request; or

“(II) in the case of records pertaining to the death of an incarcerated person or staff, threats of bodily harm including sexual or physical assaults, or the denial or delay of necessary medical treatment, not later than 10 business days after receipt of the written request, unless the Inspector General or the Ombudsman consents to an extension of that time frame.

“(D) MINIMIZE DISRUPTION OF OPERATIONS.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall—

“(i) develop procedures—

“(I) to ensure that the Inspector General has access to, and the right to review and investigate, any allegations received by the Ombudsman to ensure that the Inspector General may carry out the authorities provided to the Inspector General under this chapter; and

“(II) that may provide that the Inspector General and the Ombudsman will determine certain categories of allegations that are not necessary for the Inspector General to review prior to the Ombudsman proceeding;

“(ii) work with the Bureau to minimize disruption to the operations of the Bureau due to inspections, investigations, or other activity;

“(iii) comply with the security clearance processes of the Bureau, provided these processes do not impede the activities described in this subsection; and

“(iv) limit the public release of any photographs or video recordings that would jeopardize—

“(I) the safety, security, or good order of a covered facility or the Bureau; or

“(II) public safety.

“(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authority in this paragraph is consistent with and does not supersede, conflict with, or otherwise alter the authority provided to the Inspector General under section 406.

“(5) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Correspondence and communication with the Inspector General and the Ombudsman, including communication regarding an issue described in section 4051 of title 18 is confidential and shall be protected as privileged correspondence in the same manner as legal correspondence or communications.

“(B) PROCEDURES.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the Inspector General and the Ombudsman shall establish confidentiality procedures for all information maintained by the respective office to ensure that, to the greatest extent practicable, before, during, or after an investigation—

“(i) staff are not aware of the identity of a complainant; and

“(ii) other incarcerated people are not aware of the identity of a complainant.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The Inspector General and the Ombudsman may disclose identifying information for the sole purpose of carrying out an investigation and as otherwise authorized under section 407(b).

“(6) FILING COMPLAINTS.—

“(A) FILING COMPLAINTS ON BEHALF OF AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

“(i) ONLINE FORM.—The Ombudsman shall create a secure online form to be made available on the website of the Ombudsman where the family advocates and representatives of incarcerated people can submit complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on behalf of an individual incarcerated at a covered facility.

“(ii) TELEPHONE HOTLINE.—The Ombudsman shall create a telephone hotline through which family advocates and representatives of incarcerated people can call to file complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) on behalf of an individual incarcerated at a covered facility.

“(B) FILING COMPLAINTS BY AN INCARCERATED INDIVIDUAL.—

“(i) INTERNAL PRIVATE SUBMISSION.—The Bureau shall provide multiple internal ways for incarcerated individuals in covered facilities to privately submit to the Ombudsman complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i).

“(ii) SUBMISSION VIA INDEPENDENT ENTITY.—The Bureau shall also provide not less than 1 process for incarcerated individuals in covered facilities to submit complaints and inquiries on issues identified in paragraph (3)(A)(i) to a public or private entity or office that is not part of the Bureau and that is able to receive and immediately forward complaints and inquiries to the Ombudsman, allowing the incarcerated individual to remain anonymous upon request.

“(C) DETERMINATION.—

“(i) CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT.—Not later than 5 business days after submission of a complaint or inquiry under subparagraph (A) or (B), the Ombudsman shall confirm receipt.

“(ii) DETERMINATION.—Not later than 15 business days after issuing the confirmation under clause (i), the Ombudsman shall make a determination as to whether any action is warranted and notify the complainant of the determination.

“(iii) STATEMENT REGARDING DECISION.—If the Ombudsman has determined action is unwarranted under clause (ii), the Ombudsman shall provide a written statement explaining the decision to the complainant.

“(D) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Ombudsman shall coordinate with the Bureau to educate incarcerated people, representatives of incarcerated people, and the public about the existence and functions of the Ombudsman.

“(E) ADMINISTRATIVE EXHAUSTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as a necessary administrative remedy required for exhaustion under section 7(a) of the Civil Rights of Institutionalized Persons Act (42 U.S.C. 1997e(a)).

“(7) PROHIBITION ON RETALIATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau and staff of the Bureau shall not discharge, retaliate against, or in any manner discriminate against any complainant or any person or entity that has instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding, investigation, or inspection under or related to this subsection.

“(B) INVESTIGATION.—Any alleged discharge of, retaliation against, or discrimination against a complainant, entity, or person because of a complaint, investigation, or inspection may be considered by the Ombudsman as an appropriate subject of an investigation or other activity.

“(8) DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General and the Inspector General shall ensure that implementation of this subsection is consistent with section 552a (commonly known as the ‘Privacy Act of 1974’) and all other applicable laws, and respects appropriate due process protections for staff.

“(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to modify, supersede, or otherwise affect the authority of the Inspector General to access all

records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommendations, or other materials, as authorized by section 406(a).

“(9) PERCENTAGE OF ANNUAL APPROPRIATION FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the amount allocated to the Inspector General and the Ombudsman to carry out the activities described in this subsection should equal an amount between 0.2 percent and 0.5 percent of the annual appropriation for the Bureau.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act, and the amendments made by this Act, shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date on which appropriations are made available to the Inspector General of the Department of Justice and the Department of Justice for the specific purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

(c) AUGMENTATION.—On and after the effective date of this Act, the Bureau of Prisons shall implement the directive in the second sentence on the topic “Augmentation” in the matter under the heading “SALARIES AND EXPENSES” under the heading “FEDERAL PRISON SYSTEM” in the joint explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 117-328.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3019.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons operates 122 facilities nationwide. Conducting meaningful oversight with an organization of this size can be challenging. The Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General handles criminal complaints on behalf of incarcerated people and bureau staff.

However, this office is overwhelmed with noncriminal incarcerated people, their friends and family, and the Bureau of Prison staff. Examples of common complaints include poor prison conditions and civil rights violations.

While these complaints often do not rise to the level of criminal misconduct, they are still very important and warrant investigation to determine if reforms are actually necessary.

The Federal Prison Oversight Act addresses this issue by ensuring that incarcerated people, their families, and bureau staff have a reliable mechanism to file their complaints.

First, the bill requires the Office of the Inspector General to conduct inspections of Bureau of Prisons facilities and provide recommendations to address each facilities’ shortcomings.

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The Office of the Inspector General will assign each facility a risk score. Higher risk facilities will receive more frequent inspections.

Additionally, the bill creates an independent ombudsman within the Department of Justice to investigate issues that impact the health and safety of incarcerated individuals and staff. The ombudsman can initiate an investigation after receiving a complaint from an incarcerated person, their family, Bureau of Prisons staff, or others. If the investigation of these complaints finds significant harm, the ombudsman must report their findings to the Attorney General and Congress.

This bill will ensure that both the inspector general and the ombudsman will have access to all the Bureau-operated facilities and are authorized to conduct unannounced inspection visits. The bill encourages the Bureau to fund these investigations with between 0.2 and 0.5 percent of their annual appropriations.

The bill is endorsed by the Council of Prison Locals, representing nearly 30,000 correctional officers, along with public safety and civil rights organizations.

I thank Senators JON OSSOFF, MIKE BRAUN, and RICHARD DURBIN for their work drafting this bill. I thank Representatives LUCY MCBATH and KELLY ARMSTRONG for introducing this bill in the House.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in favor of the Federal Prison Oversight Act, which would strengthen oversight of our prisons and improve conditions for the people who work and live inside them.

I thank the bill’s House leaders, my friends and colleagues Representatives LUCY MCBATH and KELLY ARMSTRONG, as well as Senators JON OSSOFF and MIKE BRAUN and Senate Majority Whip RICHARD DURBIN, for their strong bipartisan work on this legislation.

The bill has the support of a wide array of groups across the spectrum, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Americans for Prosperity, the Conservative Political Action Committee, Families Against Mandatory Minimums, Justice Action Network, Right on Crime, the Due Process Institute, and the Council of Prison Locals, which represents 30,000 correctional officers.

Federal prisons have long experienced systemic problems that threaten the health, safety, and civil rights of incarcerated people and also the staff who work there. For example, last year, NPR reported that more than 4,950 incarcerated people had died in facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons in the last 10 years. Many of the incarcerated either experienced delayed care or postponed care for serious medical problems.

This February, the DOJ inspector general issued a scathing report on

BOP prisons, which found that systemic policy violations and operational failures contributed significantly to the problem of inmate suicide.

Bureau of Prisons facilities are responsible for more than 158,000 incarcerated people and more than 34,000 correctional officers and staff. As documented by GAO in our hearings, BOP has consistently struggled with the problem of staffing shortages. According to the Council of Prison Locals, BOP has lost 20 percent of its employees since 2016 and only employs around 13,000 correctional staff officers today, despite receiving appropriations to fund more than 20,000.

As of 2023, staffing levels for healthcare workers at BOP facilities were only 69 percent, and nearly 20 percent of the facilities do not have a healthcare program onsite to provide even routine and preventative healthcare. Staffing shortages have contributed to often disturbing and, at times, fatal delays in rendering healthcare services for the incarcerated.

GAO has also reported on BOP challenges in upholding its responsibilities to help inmates prepare for a successful release and reintegration, including implementation of important requirements of the First Step Act of 2018 to lower the risk of recidivism.

Additionally, BOP has systemically struggled to make prudent use of resources due to a failure to effectively monitor and evaluate its programs. Taken together, these challenges led GAO to add the management of the prison system to its 2023 high-risk list, indicating the severity and magnitude of these problems.

H.R. 3019 would take important steps to address these concerns by requiring the Department of Justice Office of Inspector General to periodically inspect, evaluate, and report on policies, procedures, and activities at BOP prisons, with higher risk facilities required to undergo even more frequent inspection.

Such inspections may include reviews of inmate confinement conditions; working conditions and staffing capabilities; policies and procedures related to housing, confinement, and other restrictive housing; healthcare programs and services; and complaints of violence and abuse made against incarcerated people and staff.

The bill would also establish an ombudsman within DOJ that would be charged with receiving such complaints that go to problems threatening the health, safety, welfare, and rights of incarcerated people and staff.

Institutionalized misconduct, mismanagement, abuse, and negligence have no place in the Federal Government, especially in operations dealing with vulnerable people who are most in need of a pathway back to personal health and responsibility and to society.

To make our communities safer, uphold our values, and reduce recidivism, it is imperative that we bring increased

transparency, accountability, and humanity to our prisons. The Federal Prison Oversight Act is an important step forward on these goals, and I urge my colleagues to support the bill today.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH), the author of the legislation and a real leader on criminal justice reform.

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be the lead sponsor of H.R. 3019, the Federal Prison Oversight Act. I am proud to rise in support of this bipartisan legislation today.

My son, Jordan Davis, was killed when he was 17 years old by a man who is now serving a life sentence in prison. Through my family's pain, I have found the strength, believe it or not, to actually forgive my son's killer.

I introduced this bill after I heard from families and advocates about alarming corruption, misconduct, and a lack of oversight in this country's prison systems that has led to tragedy and loss for far too many families across this Nation.

As legislators here in Congress, we have the power to lead policies that help to restore trust and transparency within these systems. I introduced the Federal Prison Oversight Act out of the belief that everyone deserves to be treated humanely and with respect. My bill will establish a Federal framework for comprehensive risk-based inspections of Federal prisons to identify areas of improvement.

High-risk work is not something to be taken lightly. For the brave men and women working within our prison system, this is their daily routine. They protect and care for others while risking their lives because they believe in the power of rehabilitation.

As their elected officials, we have the duty to make sure the roofs over their heads will not cave in on them. We have a duty to make sure that their systems are updated and that there are medical services and mental health resources necessary to protect themselves, incarcerated individuals, and everyone who may live near these facilities.

Our prison system should be one that rehabilitates Americans whenever possible, providing for long and healthy lives. The steps outlined in our bill will help to improve recidivism rates and make sure that our prisons are held accountable while implementing evidence-based programs.

I have had the opportunity to speak with the new Federal Director for the Bureau of Prisons. She has been in my office. I have had good, healthy conversations with her.

Passing this bill, I truly believe, is a first step in the right direction to protecting the rights of the administrators, the staff, and those who are actually serving their time.

I thank Representative ARMSTRONG here in the House, as well as Senator OSBOFF in the Senate. I thank Chair COMER and Ranking Member RASKIN for moving this bill through committee, and I thank all the committee members who saw the importance and the value of this bill and the value of trying to rehabilitate individuals who can be rehabilitated and reintroduced again into society to be successful human beings.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. RASKIN. Madam Speaker, I thank Mrs. MCBATH for her magnificent leadership on this and her commitment to creating decent conditions in our prisons. I thank her for the beautiful example of her commitment based on her love of Jordan and her whole family and community.

Madam Speaker, I urge all colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very fine legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman MCBATH and Congressman ARMSTRONG for this bill.

I thank my colleague, Congressman RASKIN, for bringing up how we should be reducing the rate of recidivism in this country with different policies and that we can work together.

He mentioned the First Step Act, also. I was glad that he mentioned it. It was a bill that inspired me a couple of years ago. When I was a State lawmaker, Donald Trump signed the First Step Act into law in December 2018.

This was a bipartisan bill. It was done in such a significant way, but when I learned about President Trump signing the First Step Act into law in December 2018, I was sifting through the bill, and this is where I got my start in criminal justice reform. There was a provision in there that would ban the shackling of women during birth. This was actually a thing that was going on in our prison system.

I saw this because I am a woman and very passionate, like my colleague across the aisle, about women's issues. I looked at the State of South Carolina and learned that we didn't have this codified into law, that women in our State penitentiary system, our State system, could still be, and in some cases were, shackled while they were actually giving birth.

That inspired me to do a bill that was signed into law by my Governor, Henry McMaster, in May 2020. It banned the shackling of women in our system in South Carolina and allowed these infants, these babies, to have skin-to-skin contact with their mothers after they were born. It allowed women to have their children visit them once a week in prison. It allowed them to have feminine hygiene products accessible to them.

I really applaud my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for working together because we know that when we

give people opportunities after prison—jobs, therapy, intense therapy, job training, and careers afterward—they don't want to go back to prison. They don't want to go back to jail.

This body, this Chamber, has a long history of working together to reduce the rate of recidivism. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to increase transparency in the Federal prison system and provide much-needed recourse for incarcerated persons experiencing abuse. Nobody wants that to happen.

Madam Speaker, I encourage colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very necessary legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3019, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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WORKING DOG COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 807) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 807

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Dogs going back thousands of years have been tied to humans whether for protection, companionship, or assisting in daily activities.

(2) The United States had an unofficial canine military presence assisting soldiers in the Civil War and World War I, but military K-9s did not become officially recognized until March 13, 1942. During the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq it is estimated that the United States military employed near 2,500 K-9s.

(3) Military K-9s have seen service in every major United States combat since World War I and have been praised by military leadership as an indispensable asset for military, police, government, and private security teams around the world.

(4) In 2000, Congress passed “Robby’s Law” which allowed for the adoption of military K-9s by law enforcement agencies, former handlers, and other care groups.

(5) Since 2000, military K-9s have left service and gone onto work explosive detection for police forces, and work as service dogs for veterans and families.

(6) Beyond their military working capacity, working dogs provide enhanced mobility assist and renewed independence for the injured and disabled. Service dogs are able to support veterans struggling after war, hear for those who are deaf, see for those who are blind, and even sense changes in a person’s body before a seizure. Working dogs play a vital role in improving the lives of many.

(7) The service dog programs of America’s VetDogs were created to provide enhanced mobility and renewed independence to United States veterans, active-duty service members, and first responders with disabilities.

(8) America’s VetDogs provides—

(A) guide dogs for individuals who are blind or have low vision;

(B) hearing dogs for those who have lost their hearing later in life by alerting to alarms, door bells, sirens, and more;

(C) service dogs for those with other physical disabilities that are specially trained to provide balance, retrieve dropped items, open and close doors, turn on and off lights, carry a backpack, and more;

(D) facility dogs which are specially trained to spend time working with wounded veterans recovering at military hospitals and veterans medical centers;

(E) dogs that work with physical and occupational therapists as they treat soldiers and become an essential part of the healing process; and

(F) PTSD service dogs that are trained to help mitigate the symptoms of PTSD by providing the emotional and physical support a veteran may need.

SEC. 3. COIN SPECIFICATIONS.

(a) DENOMINATIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”) shall mint and issue the following coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

(1) \$5 GOLD COINS.—Not more than 50,000 \$5 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 8.359 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 0.850 inches; and

(C) contain 90 percent gold.

(2) \$1 SILVER COINS.—Not more than 500,000 \$1 coins, which shall—

(A) weigh 26.73 grams;

(B) have a diameter of 1.500 inches; and

(C) contain not less than 90 percent silver.

(3) HALF-DOLLAR CLAD COINS.—Not more than 750,000 half-dollar coins which shall—

(A) weigh 11.34 grams;

(B) be struck on a planchet having a diameter of 1.205 inches; and

(C) be minted to the specifications for half-dollar coins contained in section 5112(b) of title 31, United States Code.

(b) LEGAL TENDER.—The coins minted under this Act shall be legal tender, as provided in section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

(c) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of sections 5134 and 5136 of title 31, United States Code, all coins minted under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 4. DESIGNS OF COINS.

(a) DESIGN REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The designs of the coins minted under this Act shall be emblematic of the vast contributions that working dogs serve in society to include the range of services that these dogs provide in detection, military service, therapy and assistance.

(2) DESIGNS AND INSCRIPTIONS.—On each coin minted under this Act, there shall be—

(A) a designation of the value of the coin;

(B) an inscription of the year “2027”; and

(C) inscriptions of the words “Liberty”, “In God We Trust”, “United States of America”, and “E Pluribus Unum”.

(b) SELECTION.—The designs for the coins minted under this Act shall be—

(1) selected by the Secretary after consultation with—

(A) America’s VetDogs; and

(B) the Commission of Fine Arts; and

(2) reviewed by the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee.

SEC. 5. ISSUANCE OF COINS.

(a) QUALITY OF COINS.—Coins minted under this Act shall be issued in uncirculated and proof qualities.

(b) MINT FACILITY.—Only 1 facility of the United States Mint may be used to strike any particular quality of the coins minted under this Act.

(c) PERIOD FOR ISSUANCE.—The Secretary may issue coins minted under this Act only during the 1-year period beginning on January 1, 2027.

SEC. 6. SALE OF COINS.

(a) SALE PRICE.—The coins issued under this Act shall be sold by the Secretary at a price equal to the sum of—

(1) the face value of the coins;

(2) the surcharge provided in section 7(a) with respect to such coins; and

(3) the cost of designing and issuing the coins (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping).

(b) BULK SALES.—The Secretary shall make bulk sales of the coins issued under this Act at a reasonable discount.

(c) PREPAID ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall accept prepaid orders for the coins minted under this Act before the issuance of such coins.

(2) DISCOUNT.—Sale prices with respect to prepaid orders under paragraph (1) shall be at a reasonable discount.

SEC. 7. SURCHARGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All sales of coins issued under this Act shall include a surcharge of—

(1) \$35 per coin for the \$5 coin;

(2) \$10 per coin for the \$1 coin; and

(3) \$5 per coin for the half-dollar coin.

(b) DISTRIBUTION.—Subject to section 5134(f)(1) of title 31, United States Code, all surcharges received by the Secretary from the sale of coins issued under this Act shall be promptly paid by the Secretary to America’s VetDogs for application to general expenses associated with the fulfillment of the mission of America’s VetDogs, including for costs associated with—

(1) personnel related to training, dog care, and consumer needs;

(2) consultants to facilitate the training of America’s VetDogs Certified Service Dog Instructors; and

(3) travel, room and board for clients served by America’s VetDogs.

(c) AUDITS.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall have the right to examine such books, records, documents, and other data of each of the organizations referred to in subsection (b) as may be related to the expenditures of amounts paid under that subsection.

(d) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), no surcharge may be included with respect to the issuance under this Act of any coin during a calendar year if, as of the time of such issuance, the issuance of such coin would result in the number of commemorative coin programs issued during such year to exceed the annual 2 commemorative coin program issuance limitation under section 5112(m)(1) of title 31, United States Code (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act). The Secretary of the Treasury may issue guidance to carry out this subsection.

SEC. 8. FINANCIAL ASSURANCES.

The Secretary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ensure that—

(1) minting and issuing coins under this Act will not result in any net cost to the United States Government; and

(2) no funds, including applicable surcharges, are disbursed to any recipient designated in section 7 until the total cost of designing and issuing all of the coins authorized by this Act (including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, overhead expenses, marketing, and shipping) is recovered by the United States Treasury, consistent with sections 5112(m) and 5134(f) of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 9. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, a bill which I am honored to have introduced along with the gentleman from Worcester, Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), the ranking member of the Rules Committee.

My good friend and I introduced this bill this Congress, H.R. 807, better known as the dog coin bill in the Halls of Congress. It has been a project that both I and my staff have been passionate about since I introduced this bill last Congress.

This legislation not only honors those service dogs, but the working dogs who protect Americans at home and abroad. Most of us passed a working dog when we came through security today here in Congress. They are so embedded in our daily lives here on Capitol Hill that we often pass them without notice.

Since I introduced this bill last Congress, I think we have been noticing these working dogs everywhere we go. I am grateful to have gained this new appreciation myself. However, this newfound awareness did not come from merely introducing a piece of legislation. It came from spending time with

extraordinary people that benefit from the work of America's VetDogs, and I would like to briefly highlight a few of them.

U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Christopher Sunday was medically retired in 2011 due to injuries sustained in combat after leading missions during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He returned home and struggled, like many veterans, with post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD.

Fortunately, in 2021, Chris was matched with his PTSD-trained service canine named Eddie. Chris said about his new companion: Eddie helped me find my independence again. I was able to finish my doctorate and become a mental health director to help incarcerated individuals because of my service dog.

Navy Corpsman Joe Worley is a familiar face on Capitol Hill, traveling from office to office with his service dog, Galaxie. In 2004, as his medical convoy was headed back to his base in Fallujah, Iraq, the first vehicle in the convoy hit an improvised explosive device. Worley jumped out to help his wounded comrades, ran a few yards and was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. It did not explode, but it took off his left leg. He was then shot six times. For his actions, he was awarded the Bronze Star for valor and a Purple Heart.

Since these injuries, Joe has been paired with two separate service dogs. He has also joined America's VetDogs full-time as its veteran liaison, and what a great job he does.

Finally, Corpsman Paul Sullivan sat down in my office and told me about his work as a first responder in Anne Arundel County. He explained how his service dog, Sal, helped him escape the night terrors triggered by PTSD. He described Sal as his dream catcher, allowing him to sleep again and go about his daily life.

I thank America's VetDogs team for their relentless work to get this bill to the floor today; Deana Stone, who herself spent 20 years in the U.S. Air Force; John Miller; Bonnie Singer; Trey Matchin; and the countless volunteers and puppy handlers who knocked on every single door on the House and Senate sides of the Capitol. Their impact is evident today because of the co-sponsors we have on this bill and the support we have for this bill.

For a commemorative coin or a Congressional Gold Medal to come to the floor, it must receive 290 cosponsors. Gaining that many signatures is no easy task, but those individuals worked so hard to spread the word that this is more than just a coin bill. This is a bill that will improve the quality of life for our wounded veterans and first responders, something we can all get behind.

Madam Speaker, I thank Ranking Member McGOVERN for his partnership. His work on H.R. 807, as well as his previous work to permanently authorize the Wounded Warrior Service Dog Pro-

gram, is the perfect example of bipartisan collaboration to prioritize the treatment and care of wounded veterans, and this bill will help enable the treatment and care of our wounded veterans and to honor the service dogs who are among us.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 807, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 807, the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act, sponsored by Representative MCHENRY.

This bill, introduced by Representative MCHENRY and Representative McGOVERN, will require the U.S. Treasury and Mint to develop a coin series honoring the critical role that working dogs play in our society.

For decades, working service dogs have provided a range of services, from detection, military service, therapy, assistance, and mobility to Active-Duty servicemembers and first responders with disabilities. Their work and companionship have brought immeasurable growth and healing for veterans and others with disabilities.

As the number of service dogs given to veterans with disabilities and PTSD continues to increase, this bill is an important step in giving these loyal and hardworking service dogs the love and the recognition that they deserve.

I thank Representative MCHENRY and Representative McGOVERN, two ideological compadres if there ever were such, for their bipartisan work on this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I am personally proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it today, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), my friend.

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act.

This bill honors the important role that working and service dogs play in the lives of Americans, one of whom is a constituent of mine, Special Operator Jason Morgan.

Jason's story is absolutely incredible. He was found face down in a swamp in Central America after a mission went wrong. He had a shattered spine, collapsed lungs, and numerous broken bones. It was a miracle he even survived.

After waking up from a coma that lasted for months, doctors told him he would never walk again. He then went through many painful surgeries, with his life hanging by a thread many times.

When he finally left the hospital, he was in a wheelchair and had memory loss. His life seemed to be falling apart. He was left to care for his three young sons on his own. Everything changed when Jason met Napal, a black Labrador Retriever.

With Napal by his side, Jason's life and his family's life changed completely. Napal helped Jason overcome his paralysis. Jason completed a marathon and won awards and medals in the Wounded Warrior Games. More than that, this amazing service dog helped heal Jason's family and taught him how to be the father his kids needed.

I have personally seen Napal many times steal the show with his personality and his love of life and his dedication to service. Napal's tour of duty has now been completed, and Yago has taken up his duties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, as we thank our veterans and Active-Duty military servicemembers, we must not forget the crucial role that service dogs play on and off the battlefield. As a scientist, I note that in a recent study conducted on veterans with service dogs, veterans with service dog companions had stress hormones more like those in healthy adults without PTSD than veterans without service dogs.

Promoting the health and mental well-being of our veterans is both a collective and an individual endeavor. This legislation furthers those efforts and ensures that we recognize the important role that service dogs play in protecting our Nation, its Active-Duty servicemembers, and our veterans.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Madam Speaker, I reiterate how important this bill is. Congress can direct the Mint to strike a coin, and the proceeds of the sale of that coin can benefit society in a large-scale fashion. We have a threshold in Congress that says there has to be 290 cosponsors for a bill to do that. It has to have wide bipartisan support, and it has to be in the greater interests of the country if we are going to do this because it is a constitutional function where Congress steps in and directs the Mint to create a coin. Then we can direct the proceeds to actually help important nonprofits in this country.

When we have a group like America's VetDogs, they do such important work, and they have shown the societal benefit of what they have done. For us to act today to acknowledge the role of service dogs and then get the benefit back into this community to help veterans suffering with PTSD and for us to have service dogs available across the country is a very special thing.

As I said, it took a lot of work, and Members of Congress are people, too. Madam Speaker, we often don't acknowledge that, but we are people, too. We are emotional, too. Things get really emotional here on Capitol Hill, and the way to bring down emotion just a

little bit is to have a little, good boy come by and wag their tail at you and ask to have just a little pet. Those are the dogs, the service animals, that are around on Capitol Hill.

Madam Speaker, we have some service dogs that are in the gallery today watching what is happening here. I think because they are here it has been a little less emotional. We have actually been a little more balanced in how we have debated, and so, even if they are just wagging their tails in the gallery, it brings a sense of calm to us as policymakers.

It has been a welcome thing to have those service dogs around the Capitol complex driving up cosponsorship, but it couldn't be done without the good work of staff.

From my staff, I thank my good friend, Phil Poe, who has worked with me for nearly a decade here in D.C. It has been the work of Phil to direct this whole process and to get the cosponsors and work with other offices to show interest. Without that definitive work, we would not be here today with the cosponsorship we have here.

I finish by acknowledging the important work of Phil Poe in bringing this bill to the House floor. I thank my colleagues for that indulgence to thank staff because the staff are what make this operation actually work. We can never thank them enough for the input that they make into law, the dedication they have to our constitutional republic, and to the American people.

Phil is one of the finest in the business, and I thank Phil for his good work.

Madam Speaker, I urge adoption of this important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 807, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

EVERETT ALVAREZ, JR. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1097) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1097

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Commander (CDR) Everett Alvarez, Jr., served with distinction in the Vietnam war and made historic sacrifices for the United States as the first United States pilot to be shot down and captured during the Vietnam war and the second-longest prisoner of war in United States history, surviving over eight and half years in captivity.

(2) CDR Alvarez was born in Salinas, California, in 1937, and was the grandchild of Mexican immigrants.

(3) CDR Alvarez attended Salinas Union High School and Hartnell College and received a bachelor of science degree from Santa Clara University.

(4) In 1960, CDR Alvarez joined the United States Navy and was commissioned as Ensign.

(5) After receiving his commission, CDR Alvarez attended flight training at the Naval Air Basic Training Command in Pensacola, Florida.

(6) In June 1961, CDR Alvarez was transferred to the Naval Auxiliary Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, where he trained until December 1961.

(7) CDR Alvarez was promoted to Lieutenant (junior grade) in April 1962.

(8) In June 1962, CDR Alvarez joined Attack Squadron 144, nicknamed the "Roadrunners", which was deployed to the Gulf of Tonkin prior to the United States entrance in the Vietnam war in August 1964.

(9) On August 5, 1964, while flying Operation Pierce Arrow from the USS Constellation near the Vietnam-China border, CDR Alvarez's A-4 Skyhawk was shot down and he was captured by a Vietnamese fishing vessel.

(10) Upon capture, CDR Alvarez was taken to the Hòa Lò Prison in Hanoi, known to many former prisoners as the "Hanoi Hilton".

(11) CDR Alvarez spent his first thirteen months, eight days, and five hours in isolation.

(12) While at Hòa Lò, CDR Alvarez was repeatedly beaten and tortured and was fed inedible meals and suffered malnourishment.

(13) In September 1965, CDR Alvarez was moved to the "Briarpatch", a prison camp west of Hanoi, with no electricity or running water.

(14) Despite torture and interrogation, CDR Alvarez remained loyal to the United States and assisted other American prisoners of war.

(15) CDR Alvarez, with his own actions, encouraged and inspired fellow prisoners of war to "Return with Honor", which meant keeping their integrity in the face of torture and not cooperating with or divulging information to the enemy, so they could return home having remained loyal to the United States.

(16) At great risk, CDR Alvarez helped spread the means of communication, including the tap code and the mute hand code, to keep up spirits and stay organized.

(17) On July 6, 1966, CDR Alvarez and 51 other American prisoners of war were forced to march in the "Hanoi Parade" where he was abused and attacked by mobs.

(18) CDR Alvarez was released February 12, 1973, after spending 3,113 days in captivity, or eight years and six months.

(19) Following his release and hospitalization, CDR Alvarez resumed his Naval service, returning to Naval Air Station Kingsville for refresher flight training.

(20) CDR Alvarez attended the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and received a master's degree in Operations Research and Systems Analysis in 1976.

(21) CDR Alvarez was inducted into the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School's Alumni Hall of Fame on March 27, 2015.

(22) CDR Alvarez served in Program Management at the Naval Air Systems command in Washington, DC, from October 1976 until his retirement.

(23) CDR Alvarez retired from the Navy on June 30, 1980, completing a 20-year Naval career.

(24) In 1983, CDR Alvarez earned his juris doctor from the George Washington School of Law and has been admitted to the District of Columbia bar.

(25) In April 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed CDR Alvarez as Deputy Director of the Peace Corps, where he served until 1982.

(26) In July 1982, President Reagan nominated CDR Alvarez to be Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration, now known as the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving until 1986.

(27) In February 1987, President Reagan appointed CDR Alvarez to the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, where he served for nearly 21 years.

(28) For his service, CDR Alvarez was awarded the Silver Star Medal, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Star Medals, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

(29) On September 18, 2012, the United States Navy Memorial awarded CDR Alvarez the "Lone Sailor Award".

(30) The people of the United States honor the sacrifices of CDR Alvarez and his service to our Nation.

SEC. 3. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of Congress, of a gold medal of appropriate design to Everett Alvarez, Jr., in recognition of his service to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (referred to in this Act as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary. The design shall bear an image of, and inscription of the name of, Everett Alvarez, Jr.

SEC. 4. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 3, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 5. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—Medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 6. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck under this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 4 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

North Carolina (Mr. McHENRY) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

Mr. McHENRY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1097, a bill that will award the Congressional Gold Medal to Everett Alvarez, Jr.

Madam Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal is considered the highest civilian honor awarded in the United States. In the 248 years since the Continental Congress issued the first one to George Washington in 1776, only 184 have been awarded. That is fewer than one per year. Hence, the distinction of awarding such an honor should not be lost on this 118th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I cannot think of someone more deserving of such recognition than retired United States Navy Commander Alvarez, Jr.

As a boy growing up in Salinas, California, Alvarez marveled at the naval planes flying overhead in and out of Moffett Field in nearby Santa Clara County.

In 1960, at the age of 22, ignoring his parents' protests, he followed his boyhood dream of joining the Navy and was selected for pilot training.

On August 5, 1964, that dream turned into a nightmare when his A-4 Skyhawk was shot down near the Vietnam-China border during Operation Pierce Arrow. The then-lieutenant junior grade pilot was subsequently captured and imprisoned by the North Vietnamese forces.

Commander Alvarez spent the next 3,113 days, more than 8 years and 7 months, in some of the most horrific conditions imaginable. Despite being beaten and tortured for information about U.S. military operations, Commander Alvarez refused to comply, saying he wanted to be able to look in the mirror and not feel ashamed.

Even when his north Vietnamese captors no longer felt Alvarez held military intelligence value, they continued to brutalize him in attempts to extract propaganda messages. He did not cave.

When he was finally released on February 12, 1973, he held the undesirable distinction of being the second longest-held U.S. prisoner of war in our Nation's history. Commander Alvarez left prison knowing he owed nothing more to his country, but remarkably, he would go on to serve another 7 years in the United States Navy.

Today, at age 86, I believe that when Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., looks

in the mirror, he sees only honor in his reflection and that is what the American people see.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. PANETTA, for introducing this bill, along with the multitude of sponsors. It is a massive amount of work to get a legislative product like this, especially in a divided Congress and a divided time for America, but this is a source of unity and pride that Americans are willing to sacrifice for their American Dream and their ideals in this free Nation of ours. Because of the willingness of folks like Commander Alvarez, we do have this free Nation and we do have a sense of pride in being an American.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill. I urge my colleagues to do the same, but, again, I will close by thanking Mr. PANETTA for his thoughtful approach in building bipartisan consensus, not just on this, but overall, in his policymaking skills.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1097, the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023, sponsored by Representative JIMMY PANETTA.

H.R. 1097 bestows a Gold Medal of Honor to Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., a retired United States Navy officer who maintained the military code of conduct, loyalty, and honor to the United States under torture, abuse, and interrogation for 8 years and 6 months of imprisonment. He is the second longest-held prisoner of war in the United States history.

Our Nation's fallen soldiers, our veterans, our active military servicemembers are those who demonstrate tremendous courage, resiliency, honor, and selflessness. Their contributions cannot be overstated and should never be neglected. I applaud my colleague, Representative PANETTA, who is also a veteran of the war in Afghanistan for his efforts and advocacy on this important bill to ensure that Commander Alvarez, Jr., is recognized and praised for his unfaltering commitment and sacrifice to our country.

Representative PANETTA has long worked to help active military members and our Nation's veterans. His deeply appreciated service to our Nation has resulted in significant strides and legislation to help ensure that we are treating our veterans with the respect and dignity that they deserve.

Today is just one example of his work making a real difference, and I am very pleased to support this bill to honor Commander Alvarez, Jr.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), our loquacious, thoughtful, and patriotic colleague.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, obviously, I thank Representative FOSTER for yielding me this time. I also thank Chairman McHENRY for that very comprehensive and exact description of

this piece of legislation and his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I do rise today, as well, to support the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act. This legislation would award the Congressional Gold Medal to retired United States Naval Commander Everett Alvarez, Jr., who was the first aviator captured in the Vietnam war, but also the second longest-serving prisoner of war in the history of our Nation.

A native son of Salinas, California, in Monterey County, Everett Alvarez has made immense contributions to our country.

While growing up, he always wanted to be in the U.S. Navy. As a kid in an immigrant family, surrounded by other immigrant families in his neighborhood, he was instilled with that sense of service, that attitude that he should always give back to the country that gave he and his family so much opportunity.

He attended Santa Clara University where he earned a degree in electrical engineering and remains a lifetime member of the board of fellows.

While he was at SCU, Alvarez would stare at the naval jets flying over campus that were going in and out of the nearby Navy base at Moffett Airfield in Mountain View.

Right before he graduated in 1960, he took, and he passed the exams to join the Navy and train as a pilot. While in the Navy, Alvarez was assigned and trained to fly the A-4 Skyhawk fighter-bomber jets. In May 1964, Lieutenant JG Alvarez was assigned to the USS *Constellation*, which was off the coast of Vietnam, otherwise known as Yankee Station.

For the first few months, Alvarez carried out numerous missions over Laos, Cambodia, and parts of northern Vietnam; however, his first combat mission was the day after the Gulf of Tonkin incident, which also turned out to be his last mission.

On August 5, 1964, during Operation Pierce Arrow, Lieutenant JG Alvarez was sent on a mission to target and take out torpedo boat bases in north Vietnam. However, right as he got to the coast of north Vietnam, his A-4 Skyhawk was hit by enemy fire. He immediately tried to gain altitude, but quickly realized he couldn't.

Everett worked hard to get his plane out to the ocean and made one final radio transmission to his wingmen just before he bailed out into Ha Long Bay in which he said: I will see you guys later.

Unbeknownst to all, Everett wouldn't see freedom for the next 8 years and 6 months, or the next 3,113 days.

Now, for the first part of his captivity, Everett was in solitary confinement for 13 months, mainly because the U.S. hadn't started the formal bombing campaign against the north Vietnamese, but, at that time, the north Vietnamese were unprepared for prisoners of war, so for his first 6

months in captivity, the enemy didn't know what to do with him. They kept him in a local jail, treating him like a local criminal.

As time went on, though, the enemy constantly interrogated him, demanding he tell them about U.S. intentions and operations. Everett refused and subsequently was put into a 7-by-7-foot cell.

As tough as that period was, Everett will tell you that his toughest time was from 1965 to 1969, 4 years, when he and other POWs were constantly pressured and used as propaganda, including being beaten and marched through the streets. His torture included a rifle butt to the left side of Alvarez's face that dislocated his jaw and still causes him difficulty today.

He suffered numerous other injuries at the hands of his captors, including ones that required surgeries later in his life to both his arms and his back. Much of Everett Alvarez's captivity was spent at the Hoa Lo Prison, otherwise known as the Hanoi Hilton, where conditions were absolutely horrific.

During those years, Everett was confined to a room that was about 10 feet by 12 feet and was given nothing but a straw mat and a bag filled with straw that was supposed to be a pillow.

They starved him so much that Everett's weight fell to just over 100 pounds, even though his normal weight was 170 pounds. Although, he was physically weak, Mr. Speaker, having endured starvation, isolation, and torture, Everett Alvarez remained strong.

He said that the POWs took care of one another by communicating with each other and tapping on prison walls. Everett personally and regularly inspired and encouraged his fellow POWs to return with honor by not cooperating with the enemy and staying loyal to the United States of America.

On January 12, 1973, we know that U.S.' involvement with the Vietnam war ended with the signing of the Paris Peace Accords and soon after, on February 12, Everett Alvarez was released from captivity.

Upon arrival at the U.S. airbase in the Philippines, he greeted the Navy Admiral awaiting him with: Lieutenant JG Alvarez reporting back, sir.

After his release and hospitalization, Alvarez resumed his naval service. He even graduated from the Naval Post-graduate School in Monterey, California, with a degree in operations research and systems analysis.

On June 30, 1980, Commander Alvarez retired from the Navy, completing a 20-year naval career. During his service, Commander Alvarez earned the Silver Star, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the Prisoner of War Medal.

After leaving the Navy, Alvarez continued to give back by serving his country. He was appointed by President Ronald Reagan as a Deputy Director of the Peace Corps and Deputy Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

In an article with Stars and Stripes, Everett Alvarez was asked, despite the nightmare of being a POW for the second longest amount of time in our Nation's history, what allowed him to realize that he is the American Dream?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 4 minutes to the gentleman from California.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, his response was that I am nothing special. I am just one of the guys that had to do what we had to do, and that is how we did it. We just took one day at a time.

Mr. Speaker, he may think that he is nothing special, but what he did in captivity as the second longest-serving POW in our Nation's history and what he has done for our country is not just special; it is unfathomable, and it is absolutely amazing. His service to our Nation, his sacrifice as a POW, his strength, and his symbol as an American for Americans deserves the highest honor that Congress can bestow, a Congressional Gold Medal.

I am honored to be the author of this bill, and I am also proud that 300 Members of this Chamber cosponsored this legislation, demonstrating how deserving Commander Alvarez is of this recognition. I am also honored that Senator PADILLA is the sponsor of this legislation in the Senate, and I look forward to working with him and his Senate colleagues in order to obtain the appropriate amount of support so that this bill passes out of the U.S. Senate and makes it to the President's desk for signature into law.

For now, I urge all of my congressional colleagues to support the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act to honor Everett Alvarez, an American and an example of what we stand for as Americans.

□ 1645

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, my draft number was 321. Being born in 1955, I never was called to serve, and I always wondered what my service would be like had I been called. I am so humbled by this story of Everett Alvarez, Jr.

There are many lessons that we try to draw from the war in Vietnam, but one of the lessons that we did not get right was the duty that we have to respect the service to those who served under very difficult circumstances. That is part of the reason that I extend my support, again, for H.R. 1097, the Everett Alvarez, Jr. Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2023.

This legislation is necessary to ensure that Congress recognizes and honors the tremendous sacrifices that he made to protect our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Representative PANETTA for his work to bring this legislation to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

I thank my Democratic colleagues for their work. We have two coin bills here on the floor today, and they speak to different parts of our United States history and the best among us. That gift that continues with us retelling important stories of our history is really important for us to know today.

I thank Mr. PANETTA for the work that he put into bringing this Congressional Gold Medal Act before us and the story of Everett Alvarez, Jr.'s contribution to the United States and the example he gives us. For this to be done in his lifetime is a very special and rare honor, indeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important resolution, and I thank my colleagues for the form of debate here and the storytelling. It is important for us to tell the stories of the best of American history, and, let's be honest, it is important to tell the whole story of American history. These stories of heroic acts are really important for us to know.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1097.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2023

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5863

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF RULES FOR TREATMENT OF CERTAIN DISASTER-RELATED PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.

For purposes of applying section 304(b) of the Taxpayer Certainty and Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2020, section 301 of such Act shall be applied by substituting "the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023" for "this Act" each place it appears.

SEC. 3. EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OR DAMAGES RESULTING FROM CERTAIN WILDFIRES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include any amount received by an individual as a qualified wildfire relief payment.

(b) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE RELIEF PAYMENT.—For purposes of this section—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term "qualified wildfire relief payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for losses, expenses, or damages (including compensation for additional living expenses, lost wages (other than compensation for lost wages paid by the employer which would have otherwise paid such wages), personal injury, death, or emotional distress) incurred as a result of a qualified wildfire disaster, but only to the extent the losses, expenses, or damages compensated by such payment are not compensated for by insurance or otherwise.

(2) QUALIFIED WILDFIRE DISASTER.—The term "qualified wildfire disaster" means any federally declared disaster (as defined in section 165(i)(5)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) declared, after December 31, 2014, as a result of any forest or range fire.

(c) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986—

(1) no deduction or credit shall be allowed (to the person for whose benefit a qualified wildfire relief payment is made) for, or by reason of, any expenditure to the extent of the amount excluded under this section with respect to such expenditure, and

(2) no increase in the basis or adjusted basis of any property shall result from any amount excluded under this subsection with respect to such property.

(d) LIMITATION ON APPLICATION.—This section shall only apply to qualified wildfire relief payments received by the individual during taxable years beginning after December 31, 2019, and before January 1, 2026.

(e) EXTENSION OF PERIOD OF LIMITATION.—In the case of a claim for credit or refund which is properly allocable to the exclusion which is described in subsection (a)—

(1) the period of limitation prescribed in section 6511(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the filing of such claim shall be treated as not expiring earlier than the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and

(2) any limitation described in section 6511(b)(2) of such Code shall not apply.

SEC. 4. EAST PALESTINE DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS.

(a) DISASTER RELIEF PAYMENTS TO VICTIMS OF EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT.—East Palestine train derailment payments shall be treated as qualified disaster relief payments for purposes of section 139(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) EAST PALESTINE TRAIN DERAILMENT PAYMENTS.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment payment" means any amount received by or on behalf of an individual as compensation for loss, damages, expenses, loss in real property value, closing costs with respect to real property (including realtor commissions), or inconvenience (including access to real property) resulting from the East Palestine train derailment if such amount was provided by—

(1) a Federal, State, or local government agency,

(2) Norfolk Southern Railway, or

(3) any subsidiary, insurer, or agent of Norfolk Southern Railway or any related person.

(c) TRAIN DERAILMENT.—For purposes of this section, the term "East Palestine train derailment" means the derailment of a train in East Palestine, Ohio, on February 3, 2023.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to amounts received on or after February 3, 2023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMPSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act, introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), my Ways and Means Committee colleague.

This legislation was approved last year by the Ways and Means Committee 38-0 because families and communities across the country who suffered disasters need support. In fact, bipartisan support for this legislation was so strong that it was approved a second time by the Ways and Means Committee as part of the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act.

This legislation not only helps victims of disasters but also provides broad and immediate tax relief for American workers, farmers, families, and small businesses, which is why the House of Representatives passed it with 84 percent support earlier this year. I encourage my Senate colleagues to take up that legislation to support disaster victims and help the millions of Americans treading water in today's economy.

The Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act provides assistance to communities across the country, bringing relief to those recovering and rebuilding after tragic floods and tornadoes, like those that affected communities in my home State of Missouri in the winter of 2021 and the summer of 2023, hurricanes like Hurricane Ian that claimed countless lives in Florida, wildfires like those that devastated communities in California and Hawaii, and the train derailment and toxic chemical spill in East Palestine, Ohio.

I commend Representative STEUBE for his leadership on this issue. His passion started with his desire to provide help to the families he represents who were devastated by the hurricane. In the interest of getting this done, he broadened his relief effort to include over 300 storms in 45 States.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill so that we are standing with and supporting our fellow neighbors when they are most in need. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation, and I thank Chairman SMITH of the Ways and Means Committee for all the good work

he has done to ensure that we are able to help our constituents who are suffering as a result of natural disasters. I also thank my colleague and friend, Mr. STEUBE, without whose leadership on the Ways and Means Committee we wouldn't be here today. I also thank Mr. LAMALFA, my colleague to the north of my district, who has worked with me over the years to address one component that is covered by this piece of legislation.

This has been a long time coming for my constituents—too long, way too long. This is now the second time in 5 months that this House has come together to state plainly and in a bipartisan fashion that Americans should help one another when disaster strikes, while the Senate continues to play politics with what ought to be a bipartisan victory. They have been sitting on the tax bill for 5 months. I join Chairman SMITH in calling for them to move the entire bill because there is so much in it for so many of our constituents across the country.

I want to briefly reiterate how we got here today. In my district, wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018 devastated entire communities across my district and across the State of California. Entire towns were destroyed. Thousands of people lost homes, and dozens of people lost their lives.

In the aftermath, the courts found that Pacific Gas and Electric was liable for causing some of these fires. As part of its subsequent bankruptcy proceedings, the utility established a trust from which fire survivors are generally eligible for compensation for losses sustained during these fires.

Let me pause here to say one thing. No disaster survivor is ever made whole. No one is ever made whole. People lost their homes and everything in their homes—family pictures, family heirlooms, family records. They lost businesses. As I said earlier, sadly, they lost family members.

While the courts eventually created a path to compensation, it took years to get there, years my constituents didn't have. They couldn't wait around for 3, 4, 6 years to get a payment from that trust. Then, because the trust was structured in the form of stock shares and because stock shares need to be monetized carefully and slowly in order to maximize return to survivors, the payments to survivors came in batches. Nobody is getting—repeat, nobody is getting—100 percent of what they lost.

To add insult to injury, right as our constituents started to get a little bit of compensation, our constituents were told they may actually owe taxes on these payments because, depending on the taxpayer, the payments may qualify as income. In 4 years of working on this issue, I have yet to encounter a single person on either side of the aisle who believes this is fair. That is why we have been so successful in passing this legislation numerous times out of the Ways and Means Committee and off the floor of this House.

This bill has been stalled, advanced, and then held up. It has been marked up, passed the House, and stalled again. The Senate ought to quit dithering on what is an objectively good bill for our country and just pass it, but because they are unwilling to do so, we are here again tonight to take this matter up.

As I said, I am grateful to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle. Mr. NEAL, our ranking member on Ways and Means, has been a great colleague and a great champion for this. I also thank the chairman, Mr. SMITH, and Mr. STEUBE, one of our colleagues on the committee.

I wish such an unusual strategy to get here wasn't necessary, but I am committed—and I think my colleagues here are committed—to pulling every lever at our disposal to get this bill passed. This is a fundamental question of fairness, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman THOMPSON for his advocacy as well on this legislation and helping move it through our committee in a very bipartisan effort.

I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE), the author of this legislation.

Mr. STEUBE. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

In a historic act, last week, a majority of the House of Representatives made clear that the House should act to provide tax relief to victims of natural disasters all across America. I thank every Member who stood with me in this fight, and I am thankful that this bill is finally being debated on the floor.

On September 28, 2022, southwest Florida was ravaged by Hurricane Ian, one of the most devastating hurricanes to ever hit our Nation. NOAA ranks Hurricane Ian as the third most costly hurricane in United States history, killing nearly 150 people and causing billions of dollars in damages. For Floridians, we know that the recovery from Hurricane Ian is far from over.

Despite experiencing numerous hurricanes yearly, Floridians are resilient. I have been working tirelessly on disaster relief legislation for Floridians to recover from various storms that have decimated so many communities around our State. The most recurring and pressing issue I hear in my district is that the sun coast is still waiting for Congress to do its job to provide much-needed relief.

More than a year-and-a-half after landfall of Hurricane Ian, Congress has yet to provide disaster relief for those impacted financially by Ian. I have received thousands of letters, calls, and pleas for help from people in my district who have incurred tens of thousands of dollars in recovery expenses and are having a hard time getting ahead.

□ 1700

On eight separate occasions since 2002, Congress has provided tax relief to victims of natural disasters. Since 2021, over 300 disasters across 47 States have been declared without Congress taking action.

Additionally, wildfires across the Western United States and Maui have greatly impacted many Americans who have not received any relief from this body. Similarly, the victims of the East Palestine train derailment are facing the same situation.

This bill helps everyday Americans and provides them the ability to deduct their expenses from a natural disaster from their taxes.

This bill will not just aid Hurricane Ian victims. It will provide relief to the millions of Americans around the country who are victims of federally declared disasters. It will help victims of flooding in the Midwest. In the Pacific Northwest, victims of wildfires will get the relief they deserve. Those affected by severe winter storms in the Northeast will benefit from this tax deduction, as will our friends in Texas who have experienced damage from a wide variety of disasters, including winter storms, tornadoes, flooding, and fires.

In short, this is not a problem that just affects Florida or California. This impacts millions of American families, and Congress must act to provide them relief.

I am grateful to be supported by many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lead the fight for Americans all across the country to get disaster relief. Disaster relief is not a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. It is something that all of us face.

I give sincere thanks to Members and staff who have worked tirelessly on this bill. I give special thanks to California Congressmen MIKE THOMPSON, JIMMY PANETTA, and DOUG LAMALFA, as well as Congresswoman JILL TOKUDA of Hawaii, for their leadership on this effort.

I also thank former Congressman BILL JOHNSON, who represented East Palestine, Ohio, and played an important role with this bill.

I give special thanks to Ways and Means Committee Chairman JASON SMITH for passing this bill out of the committee.

The constituents of my district and the districts each of these colleagues represents are in need of help. Today, I urge swift passage of this bill on the House floor and urge expeditious consideration in the Senate so that Americans all across America can get much-needed relief.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA), who knows firsthand the tragedy of wildfire.

Her constituents experienced a horrific disaster in her district, in her home State, and she has been there with them every step of the way. She is

here on their behalf again tonight. I thank her for her support.

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5863, the Federal Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023.

It will keep survivors' hard-earned money in their pockets and help them get their lives back to normal as soon as possible, whatever that normal might look like.

Seeing the overwhelming challenges faced by the survivors of the Maui wildfires, our "family," "ohana," I introduced H.R. 5873, the Natural Disaster Tax Relief Act of 2023, last October to lessen the tax burden faced by disaster survivors and ensure they have the financial resources to support their "family," "ohana."

Since then, far too many people continue to struggle with recovery costs that no one could ever budget for. Across our country, through all disasters current, those to come, and so far in the past, they have reached deep into their savings. They have gone into debt to feed their "children," "keiki," to cover their mortgages, to pay for education and healthcare costs, and to rebuild their homes, businesses, and livelihoods.

I thank my friends and colleagues, Congressmen GREG STEUBE and DOUG LAMALFA, for incorporating elements of my legislation into this bill as we continue to fight for its critical passage.

Like me, they know all too well that there will never be enough to replace all that people lost. As the good Congressman from California mentioned, no one will be made whole, but that being said, anything we can do to lighten the tax burden and the financial struggles they face will go a long way to rebuilding lives and rebuilding communities.

I am proud to join Congressmen STEUBE, LAMALFA, and THOMPSON on the floor today to pass this bill out of the House. I implore the Senate to embrace their "responsibility," "kuleana," and pass this bill.

Disaster does not discriminate. It doesn't care if you are Democratic, Independent, or Republican. When it hits, people need help. We must pass this critical bipartisan piece of legislation now.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SMITH for helping us with our legislation all this time here, and I am very grateful also to Mr. STEUBE for allowing our bill to be piggybacked with his in this effort here, as well as H.R. 7024, Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act of 2024, which is still waiting over in the Senate. I hope we can get that one passed, but I am grateful for everybody to join this effort here today in a strong, bipartisan effort to move this narrower, very important disaster relief package to help people all across the country, as has been said.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. THOMPSON of California, so much for our partnership on this. It has taken some time, but we are getting there. I am glad to see it.

With the losses we have suffered along with our constituents—especially our constituents, of course—it is very painful to see and not be able to go back to them and say we have gotten a result.

My own constituents, I commend them. I am grateful for them. They have been very patient, the victims of the Camp fire where 85 lives were lost, the victims of the Zogg fire, my neighbors down there in the Santa Rosa area, and of course, my good friend, Ms. TOKUDA. Lahaina suffered an even greater loss of life than what we had in Paradise, which was a record. We don't want to set records. We want to get results.

It has been a great partnership on top of disaster and heartache.

Just picture this, though, as I talk about Paradise: You wake up in the morning, and you hear there is a fire. All of a sudden, there is an evacuation. People are crowding the narrow roadways, trying to get up the hill or down the hill out of town, barely making it in some cases, scorched vehicles, tires on fire, all of that.

They are seeing in their rearview mirrors their neighborhood engulfed in flames and their houses burning down with all their mementos, as was mentioned, in them.

They are wondering: Did their neighbor get out? Did the elderly lady up the street get out? Thank goodness there was a firefighter or neighbor that maybe helped that lady get out just in time, so there was not even a bigger loss of life.

The resilience of these folks in the fires that I have had in my district and my neighbors in our neighboring States is just amazing as they have stuck with us on this.

A settlement happened with the utility to somehow partly compensate them, and indeed, they will never be made whole.

My colleagues have pointed that out well. They can never be made whole, even with a lot of money. That settlement should not be a taxable event.

Think about it. Just break that down for a minute. You are in your home, and you have been paying off your mortgage. Maybe it is already paid off. You have your equity in your home. This disaster happens, and you lose your home. All of a sudden, you have to rearrange your life. You have to rebuild your life. That portion of that equity that now is going to be compensated for partly by the settlement with the utility, that portion of your home, is now a newly taxable event because of the IRS' interpretation of that.

How is that right? How is that fair at all? Someone is ripped out of their life, home, family, whatever may have happened to them personally, and now

they have a taxable event on top of that piece of equity that was in their home because of a bad interpretation here.

That is why this legislation is necessary. That is why it has been so strongly supported on both sides of the aisle all through the process here. That is why we need to overcome these hurdles we have, whether it is over in the Senate or what have you, to get this done.

People deserve to have that predictability, that sustainability of their lives, to be able to put themselves back in a good way again.

To the fire victims of the Camp fire in my area, the Zogg fire, our other neighbors out there, relief is on the way.

This has been a tremendous effort, a little out of the ordinary, to get this legislation back to this floor here tonight, and I think it will pass resoundingly. I hope so. I ask for everybody's "aye" vote.

Again, I appreciate all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for stepping forward and doing right by the fire victims, by the hurricane victims, by those folks in East Palestine, and by others who are going to be added to this.

This is how legislation should look. This is how a country pulls together, and I am glad to be part of it.

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again, I thank Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, Chairman SMITH, and all of our colleagues on Ways and Means who worked so hard to bring this bill to fruition not once, not twice, but now three times.

I know how difficult it is for our friend from Hawaii, in her area. What a devastating fire that was, and I know how hard she is working for her constituents. I thank her for being on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Louisiana, Kentucky, Oregon, New York, California, and over a dozen other States have been devastated by disasters. There is not a single colleague in this House who should have to go through a disaster to know how bad it is. It devastates communities. It devastates people's lives. It disrupts communities. It disrupts people's lives. People are killed. Businesses are lost. Homes and heirlooms are lost and destroyed.

The least that we can do is to come to the aid of our constituents, our fellow Americans, in time of disaster and in time of great need. That is what we are doing today.

This is commendable work by the Ways and Means Committee, and every Member of this House should be proud to come to the floor and vote to support their friends, their neighbors, and their constituents in these very dark times.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I once again commend the great work and advocacy of Mr. STEUBE, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. THOMPSON. I can tell you they have been advocating since I have been chairman that this is an important piece of legislation to get across the finish line, and let's hope that the United States Senate does the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5863, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ROLLING STOCK PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3317) to amend title 49, United States Code, to remove the lifetime exemption from the prohibition on procurement of rolling stock from certain vehicle manufacturers for parties to executed contracts.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3317

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rolling Stock Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. REMOVAL OF LIFETIME EXEMPTION FROM PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT OF ROLLING STOCK FOR PARTIES TO EXECUTED CONTRACTS.

Section 5323(u)(5) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B) by striking “Except as provided in subparagraph (C) and for a contract or subcontract that is not described in subparagraph (A)” and inserting “Except as provided in subparagraph (B)”;

(2) in subparagraph (C) by striking “Subparagraph (B)” and inserting “Subparagraph (A)”;

(3) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(4) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and in-

clude extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 3317.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act.

This bipartisan bill, introduced by the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit Chairman Rick Crawford, was reported favorably out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in May 2023.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this legislation. The bill will prevent Federal tax dollars from being sent to foreign State-owned enterprises and State-connected businesses for the purchase of rolling stock such as railcars and buses.

□ 1715

Moreover, this bill will block Federal dollars flowing from the Federal Transit Administration to rolling stock manufacturers connected to the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2019, Congress enacted the Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act as a provision of the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act. TIVSA prohibited public transportation agencies that receive Federal assistance from using funds to procure vehicles from State-owned enterprises.

Passage of TIVSA was a direct response to alarming national and economic security concerns related to China’s state-owned enterprise rolling stock manufacturers, primarily the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation and Build Your Dreams, whose presence in the bus and railcar market had grown significantly.

That legislation included a loophole that allowed the FTA to grant lifetime exemptions to four of the Nation’s largest transit agencies, allowing them to continue buying rolling stock manufactured by companies connected to and dependent on the CCP. This bill we are considering today will close that loophole.

In doing so, H.R. 3317 will enhance American manufacturing opportunity in the rolling stock industry. It will help American workers and strengthen our domestic supply chain. H.R. 3317 will take us another step forward in safeguarding America’s national security and economic interests.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise in support of this legislation which would prohibit all U.S. transit agencies from using Federal dollars on rail rolling stock from State-owned enterprises, or SOEs.

As of today, the U.S. doesn’t have any domestic transit railcar manufac-

turers. Federal transit policies have been designed over the years to reflect that reality while still encouraging domestic manufacturing wherever possible.

While the U.S. remains, at least for now, dependent on global transit car manufacturers, we need to ensure fair competition among all manufacturers, including SOEs.

When one entity receives government support for artificially low bids, if that is left unchecked over time, other manufacturers will be driven out of business. This would make transit cars more expensive in the long run and leave systems across the country reliant upon just one manufacturer.

Congress recognized this concern after four U.S. transit agencies awarded rolling stock contracts to an SOE that submitted artificially low bids.

The 2020 National Defense Authorization Act first prohibited most U.S. transit agencies from using Federal transit funds to purchase rolling stock from SOEs. Transit car manufacturers that do not receive government subsidies, including manufacturers in South Korea, Japan, Spain, and other places, were not affected by this ban. Congress exempted the four transit agencies with the initial SOE contracts from the ban so as not to disrupt ongoing procurement.

The legislation that we are considering here today doesn’t affect those initial contracts or any current options on those contracts, but it does prevent future contracts from being executed using Federal funds. The bill ensures that all U.S. transit agencies will operate under the same rules.

I would also note that nothing in this legislation impacts what transit agencies do with their local funding. It only affects funding from the Federal Government for transit railcars.

As transit agencies continue to receive the record funding provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it is critical we ensure the market for rolling stock is fair and competitive.

Ultimately, that will yield the best outcome for transit agencies and will help them provide more reliable and effective service for their riders.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the sponsor of H.R. 3317.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise in support of my bill H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act. I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting this simple and direct bill.

In May of last year, this bipartisan legislation was favorably reported out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

My bill will close a loophole in Federal law that currently allows some of the country’s largest transit agencies that receive Federal Transit Administration dollars to purchase rolling

stock, such as railcars, from State-owned enterprises and State-connected businesses, including those linked to the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I will be honest with you. I thought Congress had fixed this problem back in 2019 with the passage of the Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act, or TIVSA. That measure, which was included in the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act, prohibited the purchase of rolling stock from State-owned enterprises by transit agencies receiving Federal funds.

Why are we back today? We are here today to make it crystal clear to the FTA that CCP-connected companies are never allowed to receive taxpayer dollars.

While TIVSA should have eliminated any future payments of American taxpayer dollars to CCP-connected companies, like the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation, the FTA's execution of the law provided lifetime exemptions to four transit agencies from the prohibitions on contracting with CCP-connected companies.

I mentioned that the FTA granted lifetime exemptions to four transit agencies from the law's prohibitions, and I think it is important that we know who we are talking about. The four agencies receiving this exemption from the FTA were the Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, or SEPTA; the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, MBTA; the Chicago Transit Authority; and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority.

I am pleased to report that one of those transit agencies, SEPTA, just announced in April that after significant production delays and cost overruns, it was exercising the right to terminate its contract with CRRC for cause. That is a positive step.

Alternatively, another agency that received the lifetime exemption, the MBTA, recently announced that it is re-upping the contract with CRRC and adding another \$148 million in rolling stock purchases.

The enactment of TIVSA should have eliminated any possibility that transit agencies that receive Federal funding could continue using those dollars to pay for contracts with companies connected to the CCP, but 5 years after TIVSA was made law, a major public transit agency is expanding just such a contract.

That is all the more reason we are taking action to pass H.R. 3317 today. This bill will end, once and for all, the practice of sending Federal dollars to CCP-controlled rolling stock companies by eliminating these lifetime exemptions.

Chinese companies that are controlled by the CCP have nearly limitless financial resources they can use to undercut domestic rolling stock manufacturers. It is an unfair, uncompetitive playing field, and I am proud to put an end to it today.

Let's be clear. The CCP isn't just investing in these State-owned enterprises to help them better compete in the market. The CCP is trying to take control of the market. The CCP wants to dominate this industry and drive American manufacturers out completely. We can't let that happen.

H.R. 3317 is supported by a broad range of organizations, including the Transport Workers Union, the Alliance for American Manufacturing, the Teamsters, the Railway Supply Institute, and the Rail Security Alliance. I thank them for their support of my legislation, and I hope that my colleagues will join me in approving the passage of this bill today.

My bill will prevent the CCP from using the rolling stock manufacturing market as another tool to undermine our national security and our economic interests.

This is simple legislation that will solve an important concern. H.R. 3317 is good for American workers and will ensure responsible stewardship of American taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting my legislation.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I just want to say I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3317, the Rolling Stock Protection Act, is a bipartisan bill that protects American workers, our domestic economic interests, and our national security. H.R. 3317 will stop Federal dollars from going to rolling stock manufacturers backed and controlled by the Chinese Communist Party.

The bill is a responsive and responsible step that will prohibit further erosion of our domestic manufacturing sector by the CCP.

H.R. 3317 will enhance domestic manufacturing opportunities and ensure that United States tax dollars can no longer be paid to companies linked to foreign adversarial nations for procurement of rolling stock.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3317.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FELICITAS AND GONZALO MENDEZ UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5754) to designate the United

States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5754

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, shall be known and designated as the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 5754.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5754, a bill to designate the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez are remembered for their leadership in the 1946 Federal court case Mendez v. Westminster which desegregated public schools in California, which established the legal precedent for the landmark Brown v. Board of Education Supreme Court case. It is fitting that we acknowledge the late couple by naming this courthouse in Los Angeles after them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 5754, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5754, which designates the Federal courthouse in Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

The Mendezes were activists whose efforts culminated in the 1946 Federal court case Mendez v. Westminster School District of Orange County. This helped to end segregation in California schools and helped pave the way for desegregation efforts nationwide.

Mrs. Mendez was born in Puerto Rico and moved with her family to California at the age of 12. She and her

family encountered discrimination and racism in California because of their Puerto Rican heritage. She married Gonzalo Mendez, a Mexican immigrant who had become a naturalized U.S. citizen. They had several children and operated a successful agriculture business in southern California.

The Mendezes attempted to enroll their children in a local school but were rejected because of their Mexican names and appearance. In response, the Mendezes bravely organized and filed a lawsuit against the local school district to end the district's practice of segregating Mexican schoolchildren.

After they won the case in 1946 and won a subsequent appeal in 1947, the State of California took the further action of enacting a law officially desegregating California public schools, making it the first State in the country to do so.

The law was signed by then-Governor Earl Warren. Seven years later, Mr. Warren, then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, wrote the opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education* in which the Court ruled that segregation of any kind in public schools is unconstitutional.

If H.R. 5754 is enacted, the Los Angeles Federal courthouse would be the first courthouse in the Nation named after a Latina.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO), who we are going to miss terribly when she retires from her role in the leadership on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5754 to designate the United States courthouse located at 350 W. 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, as the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

I thank Representative JIMMY GOMEZ for introducing this important legislation. I am proud to support this courthouse renaming bill as it recognizes the critical role that Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez served in the fight for civil rights in the United States.

Their resolve to fight for equality in the landmark case *Mendez v. Westminster*, along with four other families from Orange County, California, would not only end segregation in California schools but also lay the groundwork for *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954.

In September of last year, I stood alongside Sylvia Mendez, daughter of Felicitas and Gonzalo, as Representative GOMEZ marked the introduction of his bill.

□ 1730

Sylvia, a dedicated civil rights activist, travels the country to ensure the legacies of her parents and the four other families are not forgotten.

I am proud to have worked with my L.A. area colleagues in 2011, especially

former Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard, in advocating for the construction of this much-needed courthouse in downtown Los Angeles.

The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez U.S. Courthouse will serve as a reminder of the contributions of Latino Americans to this country, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support H.R. 5754.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), who is the sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TITUS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill to name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse in my district after two individuals whose courage bent the arc of history toward justice, Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez.

The Mendez family, alongside the Ramirez, Estrada, Guzman, and Palomino families, challenged segregationist policies that prevented their children from getting the same quality education as their White peers, and they won.

Their efforts resulted in the landmark 1946 case of *Mendez v. Westminster* School District, which led to the desegregation of California schools and set the stage for *Brown v. Board of Education*, the monumental Supreme Court decision that stated: separate but equal is inherently unequal.

I introduced this bill alongside Sylvia Mendez, the daughter of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez, who, as a child, set in motion this desegregation case.

Sylvia was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 by President Obama and is the subject of this children's book, "Separate is Never Equal," which I brought as a reminder of what this means for our children.

This courthouse will be a reminder that history and law are not just shaped by judges, they are molded by people who have the courage to challenge unjust laws and make our country better.

The NAACP, ACLU, and Japanese American Citizens League sent amicus briefs in this case, showing that our struggles are distinct, but our battle to form a more perfect union is one and the same.

In fact, Thurgood Marshall wrote the NAACP's brief, and just years later used similar reasoning before the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters from the NAACP, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, and 21 Latino civil rights organizations and advocacy groups in favor of this legislation.

NAACP,
November 3, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: I am writing to express strong support for H.R. 5754, introduced by Congressman JIMMY GOMEZ, which would name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. Their activism, along with four other families, culminated in the landmark 1946 case *Mendez et al v. Westminster et al* that led to the end of segregation in California schools and paved the way for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The NAACP's connection to this case and the Mendez, Guzman, Palomino, Estrada, and Ramirez families dates back to 1946. During the original case, the NAACP sent an amicus curiae brief in support of the families and argued that school segregation was inherently unjust and unconstitutional. As Thurgood Marshall, Robert L. Carter, and Loren Miller wrote in that brief:

"Our Democracy . . . can only function when all of its citizens, whether of a dominant or of a minority group, are allowed to enjoy the privileges and benefits inherent in our Constitution. Moreover, they must enjoy these benefits together as free people without regard to race or color. It is clear, therefore, that segregation in our public schools must be invalidated as violative of the Constitution and laws of the United States."

The NAACP takes pride in our contribution to this historic case, which directly influenced Governor Earl Warren to sign a 1947 law repealing public school segregation statutes in California. Just seven years later, Warren, now Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, authored the unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This landmark decision, influenced by Thurgood Marshall's compelling oral arguments as NAACP chief counsel, ended school segregation across the country.

Nearly 80 years later, we stand by our words and advocacy in the *Mendez v. Westminster* case and the advocacy of the families who fought for equal protection under the law for all children. Today, we honor their legacy in supporting this bill. We strongly believe the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse will be an enduring testament to the movement for civil rights for all.

We urge you to pass this bill swiftly to ensure the lasting and historic impacts of the *Mendez v. Westminster* case—and the families who fought for equal rights—are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire all Americans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

DERRICK JOHNSON,
President and CEO.

—
CITY OF LOS ANGELES,
December 14, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: I write to express support for H.R. 5754, introduced by Representative Jimmy Gomez, which would name the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. Their activism, along with four other families, culminated in the landmark 1946 case *Mendez et al v. Westminster et al* that led to the end of segregation in California schools and paved the way for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

The powerful story of the Mendez, Guzman, Palomino, Estrada, and Ramirez families, which culminated in a successful suit against discriminatory school segregation practices in California, holds significance for the state of civil rights and freedom in our Los Angeles region today. This historic case directly influenced Governor Earl Warren to sign a 1947 law repealing public school segregation statutes in California. Just seven years later, Warren, by then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, authored the unanimous opinion in *Brown v. Board of Education*. This landmark decision was influenced by Thurgood Marshall's compelling oral arguments as NAACP chief counsel and ultimately ended school segregation across the country.

As a longtime public servant deeply committed to the progress of our city, our state, and our country, I understand just how important it is for every student to have equitable access to education and other public resources. Honoring the legacy of the Mendez family would be an enduring testament to the maxim "separate is never equal" and the movement for civil rights for all.

I urge you to pass this bill swiftly to ensure the lasting and historic impacts of the *Mendez v. Westminster* case—and the families who fought for equal rights—are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire all Americans for generations to come. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS,
Mayor.

— SEPTEMBER 27, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN McCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Minority Leader, House of Representatives.

Hon. SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee.

DEAR SPEAKER McCARTHY, LEADER JEFFRIES, CHAIRMAN GRAVES, AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: We, the below signed Latino civil rights and advocacy organizations, write to express our strong support of Congressman Jimmy Gomez's legislation that would designate the Los Angeles U.S. Courthouse at 350 W. 1st Street in honor of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez. The Mendez's advocacy led to the landmark 1946 case that ended segregation in California schools and paved the way for the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Fittingly, the courthouse sits just blocks from where the historic Mendez case was originally decided. The Mendez family, including Felicitas and Gonzalo's children, Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr., and Jerome, also strongly support the renaming of the courthouse to the Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse.

Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez advanced civil rights for all by mobilizing parents in

their community to push for an end to segregation in California schools after their daughter Sylvia and her brothers were rejected from attending a whites-only school because of their Mexican appearance and ancestry. In 1946, the Mendez family's efforts led to the landmark decision in *Mendez et al vs. Westminster School District of Orange County, et al*, steering California to enact legislation that made it the first state to officially desegregate its public schools. The NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF), led by Thurgood Marshall at the time, had been developing a legal strategy to end school segregation and wrote an amicus brief in support of Mendez. Some of the arguments LDF made in Mendez were similar to those that were later made in the landmark *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision seven years later ending school segregation nationwide.

Our public institutions should reflect the rich diversity that represents the history and strength of our nation. However, of the 200+ named United States courthouses across the country, only 20 are named for people of color and 6 are named in honor of a woman. The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez United States Courthouse would be the first federal building to be named for a Latina and only the eighth commemorating Hispanic Americans. Given its location in the county with the largest Latino population in the United States, the commemoration of the advocacy of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez—who were of Puerto Rican and Mexican heritage, respectively—by renaming the courthouse honors both the diversity of its population and the critical progress for civil rights.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we highlight and celebrate the centuries of Latino contributions to the United States. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge and lift up Latinos' stories to who we are as a people and nation. The history of the desegregation of schools in California and throughout the Southwest is a significant part of the mostly unsung history of our community in this nation and needs to be better known among our fellow Americans. In short, Latino' stories are American stories, and they need to be told.

We urge you to pass this bill expeditiously so that the lasting and historic impacts of the Mendez family and the *Mendez v. Westminster* case are permanently and publicly commemorated to inspire Angelenos and all Americans for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS), Esperanza United (formerly Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network), GreenLatinos, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), Hispanic Federation, Hispanic National Bar Association, IDRA, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, LatinoJustice PRLDEF, Latinos for Education.

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), MANA, A National Latina Organization, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), Migrant Legal Action Program, National Hispanic Media Coalition, National Hispanic Medical Association, National Latinx Psychological Association, National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association, SER National, The National HEP/CAMP Association, UnidosUS.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, for all Americans to feel part of our American story, they need to see themselves reflected in the buildings and monuments that commemorate our history.

The Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez Courthouse will be the first courthouse named after a Latina out of over 200 named Federal courthouses.

I thank the over 60 cosponsors, including Members from both sides of the aisle, along with the overwhelming support of the California delegation and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Senate to pass this legislation swiftly to send a clear sign about what we stand for as a Nation.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this historic legislation, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I join in supporting this bill recognizing the legacy of Felicitas and Gonzalo Mendez by naming a United States courthouse in Los Angeles after them. This is an historic and appropriate recognition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5754, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

THINK DIFFERENTLY TRANSPORTATION ACT

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6248) to require Amtrak to report to Congress information on Amtrak compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 with respect to trains and stations, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6248

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Think Differently Transportation Act".

SEC. 2. REPORT ON AMTRAK ADA COMPLIANCE.

Section 24315(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B) by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C) by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) shall include an action plan for bringing Amtrak rail cars and Amtrak-served stations that are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) into compliance with such Act as required by the settlement agreement entered into in 2020 between Amtrak and the Department of Justice; and

"(E) shall include a status report on—

"(i) Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak is solely responsible for compliance with such Act based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak, including a timeline for any required compliance with such Act, as required by the settlement agreement;

“(ii) Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak has a shared responsibility for compliance with such Act based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak, including a timeline for any required compliance with such Act for the portions of the station for which Amtrak is the responsible party consistent with the terms of the settlement agreement, identifying who is responsible for compliance (and the status of the compliance of each responsible party with such Act) for such portions and the timeline for compliance in cases in which Amtrak is not the responsible party; and

“(iii) the status of compliance with such Act for all Amtrak-served stations for which Amtrak is not the responsible party, nor is responsible for a portion of the station, and the entity or entities that have responsibility for compliance with such Act, based on a station assessment carried out by Amtrak or the party responsible under such Act.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘station assessment’ means a review of all components of a station including the building, platform, path to train, and parking areas, as required by the Access Board on the date of enactment of the Think Differently Transportation Act.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 6248.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to see my bill, the Think Differently Transportation Act, come to the House floor.

This is yet another item to pass the House that builds off the work that we began when I was county executive in New York State, in Dutchess County, New York, the ThinkDIFFERENTLY initiative.

ThinkDIFFERENTLY is a call to action to break down barriers and create opportunities for those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities.

The Think Differently Transportation Act does just that. The bill requires that Amtrak submit to Congress and the President an annual report with an expected timeline for bringing Amtrak trains and stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Amtrak stations and trains should be fully accessible for all Americans of every ability and fully compliant with Federal law.

The ADA was passed in 1990 and established a 20-year timeframe for intercity rail stations to be accessible to those with disabilities. As of July 2023, sadly, Amtrak has only brought 30 percent of the 385 stations it is responsible for into ADA compliance. This is sim-

ply unacceptable and creates far too many barriers for every person of every ability, making this bill necessary.

The Think Differently Transportation Act is a strong bipartisan bill that allows Congress to have appropriate oversight of Amtrak to ensure it complies with its obligations under the law.

The bill is an important step forward that Congress can take to address accessibility barriers to travel by rail.

I also wish to take this time to acknowledge the original co-lead of this bill, the late Congressman Don Payne, Jr., who, as we know, passed away last month. It was an immense pleasure to work with him, and I would like to think that the passage of this bill would act as some small honor to him and his legacy to helping individuals with disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support the Think Differently Transportation Act. It is a bipartisan bill that will advance accessibility on Amtrak services. I am sure my words will not be as eloquent as those of Mr. Payne had he been here to speak on this bill himself.

Amtrak received \$22 billion in the bipartisan infrastructure law to buy new equipment, invest in station accessibility, and make improvements in the backlog of capital projects and operating needs.

Congress set specific directions for how Amtrak can use its BIL funds.

With regard to station accessibility, the BIL states that Amtrak funds are to be used to make all the stations Amtrak serves accessible.

The bill we are considering today would require Amtrak to report annually to Congress on accessibility status, improvements, and plans at the more than 500 stations Amtrak serves, not just the ones where it has the responsibility to make accessibility a priority under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Thanks to the BIL, Amtrak is investing in new equipment and new stations. We need assurances that these investments will take into account people with disabilities, as required by the ADA. This bill helps to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support the Think Differently Transportation Act and to think differently about transportation so it is more accessible.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to say, again, that I support this bill, and I thank the sponsors of it. I wish Mr. Payne were here to see it pass, and I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague across the aisle for her leadership. I too wish Representative Payne, for many reasons, would

still be here to at least celebrate this important next step.

There are far too many barriers in the lives of those living with intellectual, physical, and developmental disabilities. They shoulder a 70 percent unemployment rate. Access to transportation and the ability to move around, as every American would hope to, creates such enormous barriers to opportunities.

This Think Differently Transportation Act will help to ensure that Amtrak follows the basic expectation that the ADA sets into law, through regular reporting to both Congress and the President on Amtrak's progress, or lack thereof, toward ADA compliance for its trains and stations and all those they serve.

This bill represents an important step toward improving Amtrak's service for customers of every ability.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6248, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JAMES R. DOMINGUEZ MEMORIAL ACT OF 2023

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5799) to designate the checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the “James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint”.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5799

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “James R. Dominguez Memorial Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) A native of San Antonio, Texas, Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez—

(A) proudly and honorably served his country as an agent of the U.S. Border Patrol for more than 12 years;

(B) began his service with the U.S. Border Patrol in 2000; and

(C) graduated as part of the 434th session of the Border Patrol Academy.

(2) Agent Dominguez served at the Uvalde Station in the Del Rio Sector.

(3) On July 19, 2012, Agent Dominguez stopped to clear debris from the roadway that posed risks to road and community safety along Highway 90 near Cline, Texas. While on scene, Agent Dominguez was struck and killed by a passing vehicle.

(4) Agent Dominguez is survived by his wife and 4 children.

SEC. 3. DESIGNATION.

The checkpoint of the United States Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, shall be known and designated as the "James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint".

SEC. 4. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the checkpoint described in section 3 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 5799.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5799, a bill that honors the service and sacrifice of Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez by naming the United States Border Patrol checkpoint in Uvalde County, Texas, after him.

Border Patrol Agent Dominguez served our country for more than 12 years. On July 19, 2012, Agent Dominguez stopped to clear debris out of the roadway when he was tragically struck and killed by a passing car.

It is fitting that we honor Agent Dominguez by naming this Border Patrol checkpoint after him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 5799, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5799, a bill to designate the checkpoint of the U.S. Border Patrol located on United States Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, naming it the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint, and I thank Mr. GONZALES for bringing the bill.

In 2012, 41-year-old United States Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez was struck and killed by a vehicle while assisting a disabled motorist on U.S. 90 near Cline, Texas.

Agent Dominguez had served with the U.S. Border Patrol for 12 years. He is survived by his wife and four children. Agent Dominguez' brother and father were also members of the Border Patrol.

I support this legislation to rename the Border Patrol checkpoint located on U.S. Highway 90 West in Uvalde County, Texas, as the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TONY GONZALES), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5799, the James R. Dominguez Memorial Act. I thank this Chamber for bringing this bill to the floor for a vote today.

I have the privilege of serving Texas 23 and the people of Uvalde. I was in Uvalde yesterday. It has been a tough couple of years for us in the district.

Just outside of Uvalde is a checkpoint called the Uvalde Checkpoint Station. Very soon that checkpoint will be known as the James R. Dominguez Checkpoint.

When I met with Border Patrol agents that day, it was nothing but smiles, whether they had been in for 2 years or they had been in for 30 years, like Agent Moreno, it was all smiles. They were smiling because they knew that they weren't going to be forgotten, whether they passed away during service over 12 years ago, they were not going to be forgotten. Their families weren't going to be forgotten.

In 2012, Border Patrol Agent James Dominguez tragically passed away in the line of duty when he was struck by a vehicle along Highway 90 in Texas.

Agent Dominguez was a loving father, a husband, a friend to all that knew him, and a strong man of faith. He dedicated 12 years of his life as a Border Patrol agent, the last serving in the Uvalde station in the Del Rio sector.

Today is a special day for this Chamber. We will move forward tonight on legislation that will honor the memory of Border Patrol Agent James Dominguez by renaming the checkpoint in Uvalde in his honor.

I am proud to work very closely with Chief Owens and his wife, Cassy Garcia, as well as the family members of Agent Dominguez, his brothers and sisters, his widow, to rename this Uvalde station and make this memorial possible.

Agent James Dominguez' legacy will live on for generations to come, and his service will never be forgotten.

□ 1745

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation, as I said, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill to honor the service and sacrifice of U.S. Border Patrol Agent James R. Dominguez by designating the United States Border Patrol checkpoint in Uvalde County, Texas, as the James R. Dominguez Border Patrol Checkpoint.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative GONZALES, for his advocacy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5799.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 45 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 5863; and
H.R. 3019.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

FEDERAL DISASTER TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5863) to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 382, nays 7, not voting 40, as follows:

[Roll No. 219]

YEAS—382

Adams	Baird	Bice
Aderholt	Balderson	Bilirakis
Aguilar	Balint	Bishop (GA)
Alford	Banks	Blunt Rochester
Allen	Barr	Boehrt
Allred	Barragán	Bonamici
Amo	Bean (FL)	Bost
Amodei	Beatty	Bowman
Arrington	Bentz	Boyle (PA)
Auchincloss	Bera	Brown
Babin	Bergman	Brownley
Bacon	Beyer	Bucshon

Budzinski	Gimenez	McClintock	Steel	Tlaib	Wasserman	Banks	Fallon	Lawler
Burchett	Golden (ME)	McCullum	Stefanik	Tokuda	Schultz	Barr	Feeenstra	Lee (CA)
Burgess	Goldman (NY)	McCormick	Stell	Tonko	Waters	Barragán	Ferguson	Lee (FL)
Burlison	Gomez	McGarvey	Steube	Torres (CA)	Watson Coleman	Bean (FL)	Finstad	Lee (PA)
Bush	Gonzales, Tony	McGovern	Stevens	Torres (NY)	Weber (TX)	Beatty	Fischbach	Leger Fernandez
Calvert	Gonzalez,	Meeks	Strickland	Trahan	Webster (FL)	Bentz	Fitzgerald	Lesko
Cammack	Vicente	Menendez	Suozzi	Turner	Wenstrup	Bera	Fitzpatrick	Letlow
Caraveo	Gooden (TX)	Meuser	Swalwell	Underwood	Westerman	Bergman	Fleischmann	Levin
Carbajal	Gosar	Mfume	Sykes	Valadao	Wexton	Beyer	Fletcher	Lieu
Cárdenas	Gottheimer	Miller (IL)	Takano	Van Duyne	Wild	Bice	Flood	Lofgren
Carey	Graves (LA)	Miller (OH)	Tenney	Van Orden	Williams (GA)	Biggs	Foster	Lucas
Carl	Graves (MO)	Miller (WV)	Thanedar	Van	Williams (NY)	Bilirakis	Fousshee	Luetkemeyer
Carson	Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (CA)	Vargas	Williams (TX)	Bishop (GA)	Foxx	Luna
Carter (GA)	Green, Al (TX)	Mills	Thompson (MS)	Vasquez	Williams (SC)	Bishop (NC)	Frankel, Lois	Luttrell
Carter (LA)	Greene (GA)	Molinaro	Thompson (PA)	Veasey	Wilson (SC)	Blunt Rochester	Franklin, Scott	Lynch
Carter (TX)	Grothman	Moolenaar	Tiffany	Wagner	Womack	Boebert	Frost	Mace
Cartwright	Guest	Moore (AL)	Timmons	Walberg	Yakym	Bonamici	Fry	Malliotakis
Casar	Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Titus	Waltz	Zinke	Bost	Fulcher	Maloy
Case	Hageman	Moran				Bowman	Gaetz	Mann
Casten	Harder (CA)	Morelle				Boyle (PA)	Garamendi	Manning
Castor (FL)	Harris	Moskowitz	Biggs	Good (VA)	Rosendale	Brecheen	Garbarino	Mast
Castro (TX)	Harshbarger	Moulton	Brecheen	Lesko		Brown	García (IL)	Matsui
Chavez-DeRemer	Hayes	Mrvan	Foxx	Perry		Brownley	García (TX)	McBath
Cherifilus-	Hern	Mullin				Bucshon	Garcia, Mike	McCaull
McCormick	Higgins (LA)	Nadler				Budzinski	Garcia, Robert	McClain
Chu	Hill	Napolitano	Armstrong	Jackson Lee	Quigley	Burchett	Gimenez	McClellan
Ciscomani	Himes	Neal	Bishop (NC)	Jayapal	Roy	Burgess	Golden (ME)	McClintock
Clark (MA)	Hinson	Neguse	Blumenauer	Kiggans (VA)	Ruppersberger	Burlison	Goldman (NY)	McCullom
Clarke (NY)	Horsford	Nehls	Buchanan	Kuster	Smith (NJ)	Bush	Gomez	McCormick
Cleaver	Houchin	Newhouse	Crenshaw	Lee (NV)	Smucker	Calvert	Gonzales, Tony	McGarvey
Cline	Houlahan	Nickel	Curtis	Loudermilk	Stansbury	Cammack	Gonzalez,	McGovern
Cloud	Hoyer	Norcross	Donalds	Magaziner	Strong	Caraveo	Vicente	Meeks
Clyburn	Hoyle (OR)	Norman	Evans	Massie	Trone	Carbajal	Good (VA)	Menendez
Clyde	Hudson	Nunn (IA)	Gallego	McHenry	Van Drew	Cárdenas	Gooden (TX)	Meuser
Cohen	Huffman	Obernolte	Granger	Meng	Velázquez	Carey	Gottheimer	Mfume
Cole	Issa	Ocasio-Cortez	Griffith	Mooney	Wilson (FL)	Carl	Graves (LA)	Miller (IL)
Collins	Ivey	Ogles	Grijalva	Moore (WI)	Wittman	Carson	Graves (MO)	Miller (OH)
Comer	Jackson (IL)	Omar	Huizenga	Murphy		Carter (GA)	Green (TN)	Miller (WV)
Connolly	Jackson (NC)	Owens	Hunt	Pelosi		Carter (LA)	Green, Al (TX)	Miller-Meeks
Correa	Jackson (TX)	Pallone				Carter (TX)	Greene (GA)	Mills
Costa	Jacobs	Palmer				Cartwright	Grothman	Molinaro
Courtney	James	Panetta				Casar	Guest	Moolenaar
Craig	Jeffries	Pappas				Case	Guthrie	Moore (AL)
Crane	Johnson (GA)	Pascrall				Casten	Hageman	Moore (UT)
Crawford	Johnson (SD)	Peltola				Castor (FL)	Harder (CA)	Moran
Crockett	Jordan	Pence				Castro (TX)	Harris	Morelle
Crow	Joyce (OH)	Perez				Chavez-DeRemer	Harshbarger	Moskowitz
Cuellar	Joyce (PA)	Peters				Cherifilus-	Hayes	Moulton
D'Esposito	Kamlager-Dove	Petterson				McCormick	Hern	Mrvan
Davids (KS)	Kaptur	Pfluger				Chu	Higgins (LA)	Mullin
Davidson	Kean (NJ)	Phillips				Ciscomani	Hill	Nadler
Davis (IL)	Keating	Pingree				Clark (MA)	Himes	Napolitano
Davis (NC)	Kelly (IL)	Pocan				Clarke (NY)	Hinson	Neal
De La Cruz	Kelly (MS)	Porter				Cleaver	Horsford	Neguse
Dean (PA)	Kelly (PA)	Posey				Cline	Houchin	Nehls
DeGette	Kennedy	Pressley				Cloud	Houlahan	Newhouse
DeLauro	Khanna	Ramirez				Clyburn	Hoyer	Nickel
DelBene	Kildee	Raskin				Clyde	Hoyle (OR)	Norcross
Deluzio	Kiley	Reschenthaler				Cohen	Hudson	Norman
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Rodgers (WA)				Cole	Huffman	Nunn (IA)
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Rogers (AL)				Collins	Issa	Obernolte
Diaz-Balart	Kim (NJ)	Rogers (KY)				Comer	Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez
Dingell	Krishnamoorthi	Rose				Connolly	Jackson (IL)	Ogles
Doggett	Kustoff	Ross				Correa	Jackson (NC)	Omar
Duarte	LaHood	Rouzer				Costa	Jackson (TX)	Owens
Duncan	LaLota	Ruiz				Craig	Jacobs	Pallone
Dunn (FL)	LaMalfa	Rutherford				Crane	James	Palmer
Edwards	Lamborn	Ryan				Crawford	Jeffries	Panetta
Ellzey	Landsman	Salazar				Crockett	Johnson (GA)	Pappas
Emmer	Langworthy	Salinas				Crow	Johnson (SD)	Pascrall
Escobar	Larsen (WA)	Sánchez				Cuellar	Jordan	Peltola
Eshoo	Larson (CT)	Sarbanes				D'Esposito	Joyce (OH)	Pence
Espaillat	Latta	Scalise				Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Perez
Estes	LaTurner	Scanlon				Davidson	Kamlager-Dove	Perry
Ezell	Lawler	Schakowsky				Davis (IL)	Kaptur	Peters
Fallon	Lee (CA)	Schiff				Davis (NC)	Kean (NJ)	Pettersen
Feenstra	Lee (FL)	Schneider				De La Cruz	Keating	Porter
Ferguson	Lee (PA)	Scholten				Dean (PA)	Kelly (IL)	Phillips
Finstad	Leger Fernandez	Schriner				DeGette	Kelly (MS)	Pingree
Fischbach	Letlow	Schweikert				DeLauro	Kelly (PA)	Pocan
Fitzgerald	Levin	Scott (VA)				DelBene	Kennedy	Porter
Fitzpatrick	Lieu	Scott, Austin				Deluzio	Khanna	Posey
Fleischmann	Lofgren	Scott, David				DeSaulnier	Kildee	Pressley
Fletcher	Lucas	Self				DesJarlais	Kiley	Ramirez
Flood	Luetkemeyer	Sessions				Diaz-Balart	Kilmer	Raskin
Foster	Luna	Sewell				Dingell	Kim (CA)	Reschenthaler
Foushee	Luttrell	Sherman				Doggett	Kim (NJ)	Rodgers (WA)
Frankel, Lois	Lynch	Sherrill				Donalds	Krishnamoorthi	Rogers (AL)
Franklin, Scott	Mace	Simpson				Duarte	Kustoff	Rogers (KY)
Frost	Malliotakis	Slotkin				Duncan	LaHood	Rose
Fry	Maloy	Smith (MO)				Dunn (FL)	LaLota	Ross
Fulcher	Mann	Smith (NE)				Edwards	LaMalfa	Rouzer
Gaetz	Manning	Smith (WA)				Ellzey	Lamborn	Roy
Garamendi	Mast	Sorensen				Emmer	Landsman	Ruiz
Garbarino	Matsui	Soto				Adams	Allred	Ruppertsberger
Garcia (IL)	McBath	Spanberger				Aderholt	Amo	Rutherford
Garcia (TX)	McCaul	Spartz				Aguilar	Amodei	Rogers (WA)
Garcia, Mike	McClain	Stanton				Alford	Baird	Rutherford
Garcia, Robert	McClellan	Stauber				Arrington	Balderson	Ryan
						Allen	Auchincloss	Salinas
								Sánchez

□ 1857

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219, H.R. 5863.

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219.

FEDERAL PRISON OVERSIGHT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3019) to establish an inspections regime for the Bureau of Prisons, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 2, not voting 35, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—392

Adams	Allred	Babin	Escobar	Langworthy
Aderholt	Amo	Bacon	Eshoo	Larsen (WA)
Aguilar	Amodei	Baird	Espaillet	Larson (CT)
Alford	Arrington	Balderson	Estes	Latta
Allen	Auchincloss	Balint	Ezell	LaTurner

Sarbanes	Steel	Valadao
Scalise	Stefanik	Van Drew
Scanlon	Steil	Van Duyne
Schakowsky	Steube	Van Orden
Schiff	Stevens	Vargas
Schneider	Strickland	Vasquez
Scholten	Strong	Veasey
Schrader	Suozzi	Wagner
Schweikert	Swalwell	Walberg
Scott (VA)	Sykes	Waltz
Scott, Austin	Takano	Wasserman
Scott, David	Tenney	Schultz
Self	Thanedar	Waters
Sessions	Thompson (CA)	Watson Coleman
Sewell	Thompson (MS)	Weber (TX)
Sherman	Thompson (PA)	Webster (FL)
Sherrill	Tiffany	Wenstrup
Simpson	Timmons	Westerman
Slotkin	Titus	Wexton
Smith (MO)	Tlaib	Wild
Smith (NE)	Tokuda	Williams (GA)
Smith (WA)	Tonko	Williams (NY)
Sorensen	Torres (CA)	Williams (TX)
Soto	Torres (NY)	Wilson (SC)
Spanberger	Trahan	Womack
Spartz	Trone	Yakym
Stanton	Turner	Zinke
Stauber	Underwood	

NAYS—2

Gosar

Rosendale

NOT VOTING—35

Armstrong	Hunt	Moore (WI)
Blumenauer	Jackson Lee	Murphy
Buchanan	Jayapal	Pelosi
Courtney	Kiggans (VA)	Quigley
Crenshaw	Kuster	Salazar
Curtis	Lee (NV)	Smith (NJ)
Evans	Loudermilk	Smucker
Gallego	Magaziner	Stansbury
Granger	Massie	Velázquez
Griffith	McHenry	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Meng	Wittman
Huizenga	Mooney	

□ 1905

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present for the vote today on H.R. 5863, I would have voted "yea." Had I been present for the vote on H.R. 3019, I would have voted "yea."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, my votes were not recorded today. Had they been recorded, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 219 and YEA on Roll Call No. 220.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO USE MEDICAL ASSISTIVE COMMUNICATION DEVICE DURING THE 118TH CONGRESS

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XVII, during the 118th Congress, Representative WEXTON of Virginia be permitted to use a medical assistive communication device on the floor of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR AN EVENT TO CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 36) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 36

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA I.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on June 16, 2024, for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha I.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the event described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

LAYING ON THE TABLE HOUSE RESOLUTION 961

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that H. Res. 961 be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

CONGRATULATING THE SAINT ANTHONY'S HIGH SCHOOL LACROSSE TEAM

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, as a Chaminade High School graduate, I extend congratulations to our rivals, Saint Anthony's High School, for their recent 12-6 lacrosse victory over Chaminade.

Despite the outcome not favoring my alma mater, I commend the Friars for their skill, dedication, and sportsmanship.

In the spirit of fair play, I gracefully accept defeat in my wager with fellow Long Islander Congressman NICK LALOTA, a Saint Anthony's alum.

The Friars' undeniable prowess on the field reflects their hard work and commitment, both in athletics and beyond.

Long Islanders are well acquainted with the intense rivalry between Chaminade and Saint Anthony's, particularly in lacrosse, where both teams consistently rank among the Nation's best.

Congratulations again to Saint Anthony's Friars, their coaches, and supporters on their impressive win. May this victory inspire future competitions filled with sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Go Friars.

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

(Ms. OMAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in anguish on behalf of George Floyd and his family, on behalf of Minneapolis, and on behalf of everyone who has been impacted by police brutality.

It has been 4 years since George was brutally murdered in front of the whole world. We have been fighting every day since then to pass meaningful criminal justice reform.

What we are fighting for is a dignified life. What we are fighting for is equal access to exist as ourselves. What we are fighting for is to undo 400 years of being brutalized, victimized, surveilled, enslaved, imprisoned, and having the life choked out of us in the cities we call home.

We will continue to fight for change until we achieve a better future, the future that George deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

HONORING COLONEL RICHARD JULIAN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor my dear friend Colonel Richard Julian. Colonel Julian enlisted in the Tennessee Air National Guard in 1965 and attended basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, before moving to Keesler Air Force Base to complete technical training.

Once he completed his initial training, he returned to the 134th Air Refueling Unit. He served as a traditional guardsman and was offered a chance to become full time. He eventually moved up the enlisted ranks to become a senior master sergeant, and in 1981, he was offered the chance for direct appointment as a captain in the Tennessee Air National Guard.

He was named director of personnel for the 134th Air Refueling Wing. Later, he was promoted to the rank of colonel and was assigned as the Support Group Commander when he retired in 2004. He served over 38 years in the Air National Guard and deployed in

support of countless operations and exercises.

After he retired from the Air National Guard, Colonel Julian worked for Knox County as director of human resources and then the Blount County Highway Department until the day he passed away on May 1, 2024.

Our country's heroes are the men and women of our armed services and Armed Forces, Mr. Speaker. It is my honor to recognize my dear friend, who I miss very much, Colonel Richard Clapp Julian, as Tennessee's Second Congressional District's May 2024 Veteran of the Month.

We will miss him dearly, and I thank him for always being my friend.

DOMESTIC ENERGY INDEPENDENCE BEGINS IN NORTHWESTERN OHIO

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud a convening that took place yesterday at the Toledo-Lucas County Public Library in northwestern Ohio.

We gathered community leaders from across our region with representatives from the Departments of Energy and Treasury, local organizations, businesses, and municipalities and focused on ways our enterprising region can think big.

The Inflation Reduction Act, which passed Congress in 2022, is paying huge dividends. IRA tax incentives and related infrastructure support, especially the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, are helping to achieve private and public sector cooperation and investment to fix our roads, produce more affordable energy, and improve old water and wastewater systems across our vast region.

Domestic energy independence begins right here in northwestern Ohio. When we think big, together we can transform our local economy, attract major investments from industry and agriculture, and create good-paying, union jobs.

I thank all those who visited our region. We are prepared for a modernized future. We want to use all the tools this Congress passed to help to make America sustainable. We begin that right in northwestern Ohio. Congratulations and onward to all.

□ 1915

BIDENFLATION COSTS FAMILIES

(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, the Joint Economic Committee reported that since Biden, the average family has seen a 21 percent increase in prices, resulting in \$22,000 in costs: \$2,500 more in food,

\$4,500 more on housing, \$3,400 more in energy, and \$7,500 more on transportation.

Corrupt Judge Merchan continues his shameful unprofessionalism to reveal all Americans can be targets of judicial abuse while his blatant bigotry is re-electing Trump.

Yesterday, my son, the South Carolina Attorney General, hand-delivered to the judge an invitation for the judge to be my guest at the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years, as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America. We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens the borders for more dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

We are grateful for the life of Gayle Averyt.

GASTON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the town of Gaston, North Carolina, celebrating its 75th anniversary.

As the song "Celebration" played in the background, I joined Mayor Deborah Lee James, members of the town council, and residents from across the town to celebrate this amazing milestone.

There was a parade, maypole wrapping, a drum line, and many fun activities. Town officials also cut the ribbon on the Dwight Hall Ballpark, demonstrating their commitment to its future.

Celebrating Gaston's rich history and seeing the beauty of eastern North Carolina was wonderful.

I am looking forward to celebrating many, many, many more years of this great town.

Happy 75th anniversary, Gaston, G-75.

HONORING MACKENZIE CONNELL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mackenzie Connell for being recognized as one of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's top 15 high school girl golfers in the State of Georgia.

Mackenzie joins a very elite class of young women golfers. This selection process is highly competitive and includes every young woman in the Georgia High School Association.

Since joining the Pierce County High School girls' golf team, Mackenzie has won many prestigious honors. A few of

these include being named the 2023 GHSA AA Player of the Year, the 2024 GHSA AA Area 1 Low Medalist, and a two-time 912 Sports Magazine Player of the Year.

In both 2022 and 2023, the Pierce County girls' golf team won back-to-back State championships. Mackenzie was an integral player on both teams. During the 2023 State Championship Golf Tournament, she was named the GHSA State Low Medalist where she shot a tournament low of 73.

Outside of golf, Mackenzie is recognized as one of the top performing students in her class. She boasts a stellar GPA and is involved in a whole host of extracurricular activities.

Congratulations to Mackenzie. I look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish in the future as she continues to make our district proud.

SAFE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

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

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge passage of the Ensuring Safe and Ethical AI Development Through SAFE AI Research Grants Act. This is bipartisan legislation that I have introduced.

Just recently, the company OpenAI unveiled the latest chat bot model which had some truly amazing new features. Yet shortly after that, there was an exodus of employees from the company devoted to safety with one of them even saying that this part of the company is not receiving the compute that it needs to.

Now, I don't know if that is true, and I don't know the particulars of what is going on in that company, but it does underscore the fact that we cannot rely or assume that companies are devoting the attention to safety issues that they should.

I do think there is a role for the Federal Government to catalyze cutting-edge AI safety research. That is what my legislation does, and I think it is of the highest urgency that Congress assure that as we look ahead to the limitless potential benefits of AI, that we do whatever we can to understand the risks and take the steps that we need to mitigate them.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPPOSITO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address the House and talk about four issues that, per usual, I think have not been adequately covered by our mainstream press corps.

The first issue I would like to deal with is their treatment in their public statements by the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, which is the second

biggest university in the State of Wisconsin, towards what is going on in Israel.

They, I think in part because of some Palestinian sympathizers who set up tents on their campus, felt compelled to make an issue on what American foreign policy or at least UWM's foreign policy is.

To my great concern and great embarrassment, they have decided to, in their statement, condemn Israel. Also, in addition, to condemning Israel, they called on Israel to begin a cease-fire in the Middle East.

If you read their statement, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that there is some equivalence between Israel and what could be called Palestine, or even treating Palestine in a superior position there. This is completely unacceptable, and it is, sadly, something that is seen too much on university campuses.

The thing that makes this uniquely horrible is it is coming from the administration. It is bad enough if run-of-the-mill faculty members of universities around the country can't figure out the obvious difference between right and wrong here. It is particularly disturbing that the administration itself has a problem distinguishing that.

Israel was attacked, and over 1,000 people were killed in the most blood-thirsty and callous way possible. Israel responded to this declaration of war by trying to, as carefully as possible, get rid of the Hamas fighters who had tried to destroy them and recapture hostages that at least are claimed to be hidden probably in tunnels beneath the Gaza community.

There is a huge difference between the countries. Israel is a modern Western, humane country. It is a country with lots of mosques that has a very diverse population. Mr. Speaker, you will notice when the over 1,000 people were murdered and taken hostage, people from Thailand and the Phillipines were in Israel. They are trying to get people from Ecuador in Israel. People are coming from all around the globe for an opportunity to work in Israel.

Meanwhile, Gaza, like too many, sadly, Third World countries, is a corrupt state in which, despite receiving billions of dollars from foreign countries, primarily in Europe, is still stuck in the muck. It is a country that has no synagogues in it. There is not the appreciation for freedom of religion in Gaza like there is in Israel.

The people who run Gaza have been corrupt. The leaders have sometimes been in Qatar and sometimes been in Turkiye. The ancestors of Yasser Arafat, who ran Palestine during much of my life, wound up in Paris. The people who get the money here don't even stay in Gaza. It is a country, by the way, that would be well-run and would be prosperous. It is located on the Mediterranean Sea. It was formerly a place where people came to recreate and was a tourist spot. It was a place that used

to have greenhouses that were left behind by the Jews when they had to go back to Israel and were destroyed by the people in Palestine.

In any event, we have to weigh in as a country and wake up as far as what is going on in our universities.

Why do we have universities?

Some of the American public will overwhelmingly figure out whom they should have sympathy for. Nonetheless, in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, the administration clearly had more sympathy with Hamas than they did with Israel, which is something of great concern.

Another thing of great concern is when they had to deal with the apparent crisis of having tents in their university, they felt compelled to negotiate with the squeaky people who sympathized with the barbaric Hamas military and didn't even talk to people who have had a vested interest and apparently didn't talk to people who had a vested interest in looking out for Israel, which, after all, is fighting for its existence.

If Israel would immediately pull out of Gaza, what would happen?

It would allow the Hamas group to replenish their arms and to regroup and to someday attack Israel again 5 years, 10 years, 15 years down the line.

So, in any event, I realize the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is not as well-known academically as Harvard or MIT or Northwestern or some of these other universities that embarrass themselves, but I hope the public is paying attention to what is going on in the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

I hope the taxpayers are paying attention, and I hope the chancellor who has made some admission that what he did was maybe not right, would take a bolder stance and say that his university is not going to weigh in or give any sympathy towards Hamas, particularly so soon after they so barbarically killed over 1,000 Israelis.

My second issue today is that within the last few weeks, we received, one more time, the monthly totals on the number of migrants who came across our southern border. One more time, it is true almost as far back as you can find, the numbers for April were a substantial increase over last April and a huge increase over the final April under Donald Trump.

During the final April under Donald Trump, April 2020, about 6,000 people crossed the border. Last April about 178,000 people crossed the border. We are now at 204,000. So it has been a huge increase, from 178,000 to 204,000 people. This is obviously unacceptable.

That increase is understated because what President Biden has done to hold down the numbers is he gives parole to people who are coming here from Cuba and Haiti, which probably would add another 30,000 people to this list, except for it is not included on the numbers released. So the American public and the American press should keep

paying attention to what is going on at the border.

The biggest problem in our country, if our country goes under, our great country, I think is we anticipate a free press, but to have a free press and have it count for something, it has to be a competent press. When the numbers were released a couple weeks ago, I think it was within the last week, on the number of people who crossed the border from April, it should have been a banner headline in every newspaper in this country.

□ 1930

Every 10 o'clock news station around the country should have led with the story that we had another all-time record for an April as far as people coming across the southern border—instead, nothing. They should have pointed out that, one more time, we have just shy of 6,000 unaccompanied minors.

There was a time when the press corps cared a little bit about breaking apart families.

Now, when a 16- or 15-year-old shows up at the southern border, what does our administration do? Nothing. For all we know, that child is never going to see his parents again. Who knows what his motive is for showing up at the border, but nothing is done. Our administration is settling in where we expect if a young person crosses the border without their parents, we will find them a sponsor, and they will stay here.

Quite frankly, what our administration ought to be doing is, even if a child shows up at the border with one parent—in this country, in a divorce case, we will frequently try to keep both parents in touch with the child. So, at the southern border, even if a child shows up with one parent, they ought to be turned around unless we can document where the other parent is and that they are signing off on this situation.

Again, I strongly encourage the press corps to pay more attention to the border.

By the way, I want to make one more statement with regard to the situation with Israel. There are people who are horrified—and it is horrific—when people die in this war. The war could be ended by Hamas at any time. At any time, they could say they surrender, here are their arms, here are where you are going to find the tunnels, here are where the hostages are held. The war would be over tomorrow.

People do die in the explosions and bombings that take place there. I think that there should be a little more attention paid by the protesters before they condemn Israel to see how this country reacted when we felt it was necessary to bomb population centers when war was declared on the United States during World War II.

I suggest sympathizers with Hamas look a little bit at the Dresden firebombings and the bombings in

Tokyo. That was before we got to the nuclear bombings in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Even with traditional bombs in Dresden and Tokyo, you will find, I think, more horrific things happened than anything that is happening near Hamas. Not to mention, the Israelis had been incredibly careful—much more careful than we were in Tokyo and Dresden—about warning civilians and trying to keep them out of harm's way.

If anybody in this body wants more sympathy or wants to condemn Israel, I suggest they look at how we handled the situation when we were bombing Japan and Germany toward the end of World War II—by the way, at a time when the conclusion of the war was, to a certain extent, already determined.

The third issue that I believe has not been adequately addressed in the paper—and when I get back on the weekends, I try to talk to people about it; they have no clue—is the fact that we have recently begun collecting information regarding Middle Eastern people and people from North Africa for a variety of purposes.

I think people believe that by keeping track of these people, we will eventually give them the benefits of affirmative action-type programs or diversity sort of programs. Prior to this, which was only approved in the last few weeks, we gave potential preferences to Hispanic Americans, African Americans, Native Americans, Asians—quite frankly, we give preferences whether you are American or not, just Asians who are here—and Pacific Islanders.

The Biden administration, the most divisive administration in this country's history, felt that wasn't enough. I think even without showing a need, they have decided to add Middle Eastern and North African people to the mix.

If you look at a map of the world, right now, Pakistanis already have potential preference, but that ends at the Pakistan-Iran border.

What they have done is taken anybody who lives between the Pakistan-Iran border over to the Atlantic Ocean, over to Morocco, and said they have the potential for preferences.

My guess is it would mean that, right now, if you come here and open a business, and your ancestry is from these countries, you would, therefore, for example, get preferences in government contracting. You may get preferences for the purpose of government hiring. You may get preferences for government bidding.

In any event, I think there should have been a lot of discussion in the news media before we added another huge bloc of people who, as a practical matter, were going to get preferences over the native-born.

Making this decision even more bizarre, I think the two rationales for affirmative action—neither of which I agree with, by the way—were either because something bad happened to people in this country maybe 100 years ago

or that this group maybe statistically was not doing as well when measured by economic metrics.

Here, people from the Middle East and North Africa largely have not immigrated to this country until the last 30 or 40 years, so you couldn't say that there has been historical discrimination here. Not only that, at least with regard to people from Iran, they are doing much better than the native-born.

If people from Iran who are doing a great job in this country and adding a lot to the United States are making more money than the native-born, why would the government go out of its way to say they are going to get preferences for government contracting?

Even more bizarre, like all preferences under these programs, is they don't care how wealthy you are. I can be here. We will say I am from Morocco. If I inherited \$10 million from my parents, I still would be helped or given a preference because of my ethnicity, despite the fact that I am wildly wealthy. It doesn't really make any sense.

You self-identify, so you could have somebody who is three quarters Irish and one quarter Moroccan, and they would be able to identify as North African and get preferences.

The biggest problem is that it continues the Biden policy of trying to create division in Americans. They want people to view themselves forever as not just an American, as we did when I was a child, but for forever as: I am Hispanic American. I am an Asian American. I am picked on.

This is a way to, I believe, destroy America. I think that is why the Biden administration is going down this path.

I do think, coming back to the mainstream media, we should ask ourselves why I have a hard time finding anybody back in my district who is aware that we have recently given preferences to this whole new body of people, which is a significant policy change. If we had a competent press corps in this country, it is something everybody would be aware of, and we would have had a public discussion about.

The final topic, which I don't think has been discussed enough, is the goal to have two-thirds of our vehicles be electric vehicles by 2032.

I recently bought a car, a Ford Escape, and it occurs to me now that it is not impossible that this will be the final normal car I will ever own.

There are a lot of things that can be said about electric cars, but almost all of them are bad. My major concern—though there are others, as well—is that they are more expensive. When I talk to my insurance agent, he tells me the cost of auto insurance with an electric car could easily be up more than 50 percent. There are other sources who don't say it will be that high, but I think everybody would agree it will be at least a 20 or 30 percent increase in the cost of auto insurance.

This, at a time, where due to the excessive spending of the Biden administration, the cost of housing is through the roof and the cost of food is through the roof. Well, guess what? The cost of a car is about to go up. I am told the cost of a new pickup could go up \$20,000 as we switch to electric cars. The cost of insurance is going up.

In addition to that, we have the problems that our infrastructure is not even remotely ready for electric vehicles and the problems you are going to have in which you are not able to drive as many miles. I happen to be from Wisconsin, where the huge problem will be trying to get these things charged when it is 10 degrees below outside.

In any event, it is something for this body to pay attention to and to warn our constituents about so they are aware that as they set aside money for a new car—I think it is a smart thing to set aside money so you don't go into debt—you are going to have to set aside extra money if you plan on buying a new car more than 8 years from now. It is just one more cost that is going to make it more difficult for young Americans to join the middle class and prepare for the American Dream.

In summary, I mentioned the four issues I wish the press would pay attention to.

In the Wisconsin area, the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee came out with a ridiculous press release, which they have tried to modify, but nowhere near enough, in which they imply that Israel has to do something as far as ending the war in the Middle East, not, apparently, Hamas, the brutal people who killed many Israelis a little over half a year ago now.

The second issue to look at is that, one more time, we have a record number of people coming here for a month, a record number of people coming across the border in April, at a time, by the way, when we are hitting in 4-year increments records of people being sworn in as immigrants legally. It is not like nobody is coming in here, but I think the American public ought to be appalled that, one more time, in April 2024, we hit an all-time record for people coming here in April.

The third issue almost entirely unreported in the mainstream media is the fact that we apparently are going to give preferences to people from North Africa, Libya, Algeria, whatever, over to the Middle East, Syria, Iran, as far as government contracting and probably government employment. I don't know if it is something we can undo if we get a different President, but it is certainly very divisive.

With it comes the bureaucracy that will forever tell people from North Africa and the Middle East that they should identify not just as American but a Middle Eastern American or a North African American.

Finally, I hope the press, as the clock winds down to 2032, warns Americans what they are going to have to expect as far as driving a new electric vehicle.

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE FLOYD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of the Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is now my privilege to address you.

In the play "Julius Caesar," Mark Antony proclaims: "What cause withdraws you then to mourn for him?"

I rise tonight because this is our question today. By what measure and according to what standard might we allow this week to slip between our fingers and not remember what happened on a street in Minneapolis on May 25? What in all creation would justify our forgetting a collective unconsciousness?

We are summoned into this Chamber tonight because George Floyd should be alive today. He should be enjoying the matriculation of his daughter from one grade to the next. He should be living out his days under the protections afforded to every American citizen, such as the presumption of innocence, equal protection under the law, and all the Eighth Amendment rights against cruel and unusual punishment.

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Tragically, none of what ought to be is true in the case of Mr. George Floyd. George Floyd is not alive, George Floyd was not protected, and George Floyd was not a victim of just bigotry and neglect. He was killed by the very institution employed to ensure his safety.

This is what happens when people don't see you as being someone and something worthy of protection. This is what happens when you are viewed as a threat and Blackness is seen as a problem and not as a gift to the world. Indeed, what happened to Mr. George Floyd over a \$20 alleged bill—they said there was a \$20 bill that was counterfeited—that had the assistance of five officers dressed in uniform, in broad daylight, to suffocate him. No one would ever know what happened to the alleged \$20 fraudulent bill.

What happened to George Floyd is a predictable outcome when the country you live in would rather build prisons

than reimagine schools, would rather blame poverty on the poor but never question the gluttony of the rich, and would rather ignore the persistent evil of racism as if the record of our inability to honor each other's humanity had not already resulted in tragedy and death.

The beaches of American history are cluttered with the bleached bones of the innocent, needlessly slaughtered on the battlefield of this Nation's preoccupation with subjugation and hatred. I remind Members that Mr. George Floyd died in the new millennium. This isn't some type of tragedy I am talking about from a century ago. This was the new millennium, and George Floyd deserves to be alive today.

What happened to Mr. George Floyd is the rhyme that makes history, it makes whatever we fail to be honest about: racism, militarism, and, indeed, a destructive system.

We have gathered here today to answer Mark Antony's question. There is no cause, and there are no foreseeable circumstances that would compel us to forget what happened to Mr. George Floyd.

George Floyd was murdered by a police officer who refused to see the humanity of the helpless, who refused to see the humanity of a handcuffed man, who refused to see a man gasping for his last breath with a knee wedged on his back while suffocating him and imperiled. I say to Members: Anyone born of a woman should have been able to identify with the pleading of George Floyd not to lose his life.

Mr. Floyd asked for his mother as he gasped his last breath. One does not need a graduate degree in ethics, morality, or philosophy to have been moved by the elegy of George Floyd. Not only does this event say something about the totalitarian impulses of policing in America, but it also says something about the kind of Nation we have allowed ourselves to become.

We have also allowed certain political influences to compel us to see each other as enemies and not merely as adversaries. We have allowed resentment to determine how we respond to one another and not what is required of us if we are to survive.

This week also presents us with a golden opportunity that we cannot ignore. The painful anniversary of the murder of George Floyd presents us with a chance to not only recommit ourselves to the eradication of racism and police-sponsored violence in America, but it also reminds us that there is a piece of legislation pending in the Senate that needs to be passed right away.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act deserves to be taken under consideration by every United States Senator immediately because not reforming how Black people are policed in this country will render the murder of George Floyd a tragedy, but nothing more. I say to my colleagues today:

Why settle for a tragedy when we can pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and we can make a new beginning. We have it within our power to make sure that what happened on May 25, 2020, just 4 years ago, never happens again.

We have it within our reach to lift America from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope. Every Member of the United States Senate has a moral obligation to reconsider and, indeed, pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and not hide behind the politics of our respective parties.

The question before us is a simple one: Do my colleagues want our beloved and great country to be a place that is safe and fit for our children to forge a future without fear and the prospect of indiscriminate hate and violence?

If the answer is yes, then let us work toward getting together to ensure that we will never again be driven into this Chamber to remember the death of innocence.

If the answer is yes, then let us choose a more excellent way.

If the answer is yes, then let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we will reap what we have sown if we faint not.

Mr. Speaker, it is so important that, today, we remember those from Central Park, the innocent young men who were tortured into a false confession. They received no mercy 35 years ago. They received no recognition by a former President 35 years later. Those young men had their lives turned upside down when they were accused of a hateful, vengeful attack and rape—indeed, it was done by a person who had been convicted of such. Yet, this man asked for these men to be given the death penalty, and these were teenagers who had been found innocent.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my wonderful colleague from Illinois, who continues to speak truth to power, especially around police violence.

Mr. Speaker, George Floyd's life mattered. We all know and keep chanting, Black lives matter, but we have to show it in action.

Today, I am thinking of George Floyd's daughter, Gianna, who will grow up without him. I can still hear George Floyd crying out for his mama, yelling: "I can't breathe," more than 20 times while he was murdered by police, pleading for his life for 9 minutes and 29 seconds. His murder and the countless others in the hands of police sparked outrage, mobilization, and movements for change.

I saw with my own eyes, right here on this House floor, watching Republicans and Democrats come together and passing the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act while it went to the Senate to die.

His murder and the countless others in the hands of police require us all to

understand the truth about what is going on in our neighborhoods and our communities. We demand that this body take immediate action to dismantle systemic racism in our country and systems designed to oppress Black and Brown lives in every corner of our country. It is not enough, Mr. Speaker, to honor George Floyd's life with words. We must honor his life with action.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act has still not been signed into law 4 years later. Last year was the deadliest year of police violence on record. That should shock us all.

Just this month, Mr. Speaker, Roger Fortson, a Black senior airman, was shot six times by police and killed at his home in Florida. This is his family. Just watching his mother kneel down at his open casket, that should be enough for us to act.

How many more mothers have to experience the loss of their child?

When will Congress finally act?

We must ensure true accountability, justice, and reparations for the generations of harm that policing in our Nation has inflicted on our Black neighbors.

This is the justice they deserve: George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Roger Fortson, and so many others who have lost their lives to police violence. That is the least they deserve. This is justice for our communities, and they deserve to be fully seen, heard, and protected.

I will continue, along with my good colleague from Illinois, to continue to push for the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act.

I know, in Detroit, where I grew up, the most beautiful, Blackest city in the country, for all those who continue to demand justice in our communities, know this: The President of the United States didn't wake up one day and say the Civil Rights Act was a good thing. People marched, did sit-ins, and did boycotts until they moved this institution and the White House. We will continue to march. We will continue to demand that Black lives matter in our country.

Again, with my good colleague, we will continue to demand that the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act pass this Chamber, through the Senate, and to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my good colleague from Illinois for yielding to me.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the Honorable Congresswoman from the great State of Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for her outspokenness.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard from my distinguished colleagues today about policing in our communities and about the loss of innocence, all issues of great importance to the Congressional Black Caucus, our constituents, Congress, and all Americans tonight.

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a somber anniversary in our Nation's history. Four years ago, our Nation

watched in outrage, as yet another Black man was brutally killed by a police officer who betrayed his oath of service to his community.

George Floyd's murder sparked an ongoing national conversation that shone a bright light on the racism that exists in every corner of our society. As a Nation, we have a moral imperative to root out these injustices and build a better society.

In memory of George Floyd, I urge my colleagues to pass the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which will deliver meaningful reform for our communities, hold rogue officers accountable, and save lives. Congress' inaction is unacceptable when we all recognize there is a problem and there are concrete steps we can be taking to save lives. I urge the passage of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and thank Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE and the Congressional Black Caucus for their leadership to make our communities safer.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary, and Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, I want to thank my colleagues for hosting this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order to discuss the families of police violence, their experiences, and the CBC's commitment to enhancing public safety in this nation.

The horrifying killing of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, by a Minneapolis police officer shocked and awakened the moral consciousness of the nation.

The world witnessed the brutal and traumatizing nine minutes where George Floyd begged for his life—uttering his last words “I can't breathe”—as an officer, ignoring the pleas of George and all those witnessing his death, refused to lift his knee off the neck of George suffocating him and ending his life.

“I can't breathe” continues to echo around the world alongside our cries for justice, change, and protection from and under the law.

We are horrified by the continued massacre of Black bodies in this country for merely existing.

Our homes, our cars, and our neighborhoods continue to be invaded with violence at the hands of racist ideologies that breed fear into our institutions and threaten our lives.

There have been countless murders of Black Americans by the state.

Just last week, Roger Fortson, a 23-year-old Black U.S. airman was shot and killed in his own home by a Florida deputy.

This vicious cycle must end.

There are countless young Black men and women who have had their lives tragically cut short by law enforcement officers who took their lives in their hands.

This year also marks one year since Tyre Nichols was brutally beaten by five Memphis police officers to the point of being unrecognizable.

The nation was shocked but not surprised by his murder, comparing it to the police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles 32 years prior.

And of course, this isn't a new phenomenon of racist abuses of power.

Indeed, the history goes back much further, past Amadou Diallo in New York City, past the Central Park Five, past Emmitt Till, past the racist abuse of law enforcement power during the struggle for civil rights and equal treatment.

But we also must remember that are countless lives and stories that did not make headlines. Stories of victims who never received justice and family members who never received closure.

Just this year alone, police have killed 93 Black people in the U.S.—93 in less than 5 months.

These are not isolated killings, as they are occurring all across the United States, in 28 states documented this year by Mapping Police Violence.

According to a recent ABC poll, 39 percent of Americans are confident that the police in this country are adequately trained to avoid the use of excessive force.

For the first time in the nine-year history of this question, just under half of white Americans say they are confident about police avoiding excessive force or racial bias. About two-thirds of Hispanic Americans lack confidence in police on both excessive force and racial bias.

Americans are 41 percent confident in police treating Black and white people equally.

Despite an uptick in legislation and police reform since June 2020, there has been a steady increase in police killings.

In 2020, 1,152 people were killed at the hands of the police, in a year where much of the population was stuck at home during a pandemic. In 2021, police killed 1,145 people.

In 2022, murders by the U.S. police force reached a record high. At least 1,176 people were killed, an average of 3 murders per day, making 2022 one of the deadliest years on record.

The murders are never ending.

Bianca Austin, Breonna Taylor's aunt said that “there was a movement and uproar across the globe, and we're still having more killings? What are we doing wrong? It's so disheartening”.

It is so true. It seems like the United States is sliding backwards. We had a grandiose movement, where people from all over came together to say this is wrong, yet it does not seem like we have progressed.

How can we make America better for Black men and women? For American Natives? For the LGBT community? For immigrants? For each other?

We are all deserving of better, but we must work together to do better.

The death of Tyre Nichols and Roger Fortson has created serious urgency for the re-introduction of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act. The legislation was the product of intense bipartisan negotiations with civil rights advocates, law enforcement stakeholders and the Department of Justice.

The legislation is truly an omnibus product and reflects contributions from across the Congressional Black Caucus, including bills like the PRIDE Act; the PEACE Act; the End Racial Profiling Act; and the Eric Garner Excessive Use of Force Prevention Act.

The House has twice passed the George Floyd Act, with the support of 219 Democrats in 117th Congress. It is critical that we introduce the legislation with overwhelming support this Congress. Last Congress, the bill gained 199 cosponsors.

Last Congress the Senate failed to introduce the George Floyd Act, largely because Senate Republicans failed to engage in good faith negotiations. The current high watermark for Senate cosponsorship is 37 Democrats in

the 116th Congress. It is important that Senate Democrats timely introduce the George Floyd bill with significant cosponsorship and not repeat efforts that stymied action on the legislation.

Two years after the murder of George Floyd, in May 2022, the Biden administration released a police reform executive order. Key reforms in President Joe Biden's executive order include:

Improving data collection. All federal law enforcement agencies will contribute to a National Law Enforcement Accountability Database regarding instances of police misconduct as well as submit information to the FBI related to use-of-force incidents. The U.S. attorney general will review the status of and compliance with federal reporting requirements. This also includes the issuance of guidance to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies on best practices for contributing their data to federal systems.

Revising use-of-force standards. All federal law enforcement agencies will revise their use-of-force policies to ensure they meet or exceed the standards included in the recently revised policy for the Department of Justice. The Department of Justice's policy provides that use of force is permitted only when "no reasonably effective, safe, and feasible alternative appears to exist." All federal law enforcement use-of-force policies will also include de-escalation provisions as well as an affirmative duty to intervene to stop excessive use of force and render medical aid.

Limiting the use of no-knock entries. Building upon the U.S. Department of Justice's September 2021 policy, all federal law enforcement agencies will be prohibited from the use of no-knock entries unless an agent has reasonable grounds to believe that knocking and announcing the agent's presence would create an imminent threat of physical violence to the officer and/or another person.

Limiting the militarization of law enforcement. Federal agencies are restricted from transferring and selling additional types of military equipment to state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies, expanding the Obama-era restriction on this practice.

Credentialing of police agencies. The attorney general will develop and implement a process by which state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies will seek accreditation by an independent entity.

Leveraging federal grants. Federal discretionary grants will be awarded to state, local, and tribal governments to encourage compliance with the executive order. This will include an assessment of what discretionary grants will be limited to the law enforcement agencies that achieve accreditation.

Improving crisis response to include alternatives. Guidance will be issued and resources identified to support state, local, tribal, and territorial officials as they implement a range of alternative first-responder models to meet the needs of people experiencing a behavioral or mental health crises or persons who have disabilities. This includes civilian community responder models being developed in jurisdictions across the country that do not include police officers.

The executive order also contains important provisions that improve investigations into deaths in police custody; strengthen the effectiveness of pattern-of-practice investigations; ban choke holds and carotid restraints except

in certain circumstances where use of deadly force is authorized; enhance recruitment, training, and retention practices; ensure the use of body-worn cameras by federal law enforcement officers; and advance key criminal justice reform and reentry measures.

Advocates have also urged that Congress do its part by passing comprehensive police reform legislation that creates meaningful accountability and restores trust between police and the communities they serve by eliminating qualified immunity and strengthening civil rights protections.

Legislative reforms will follow the pattern of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act: amending 18 U.S.C. Section 242, which defines the circumstance when a government official can be criminally responsible for violating someone's civil rights. (Section 242 does not specifically define prohibited conduct and has historically been interpreted too narrowly, failing to hold police officers accountable for a wide range of misconduct.)

Legislative action is also needed to reform/eliminate the judicial doctrine of qualified immunity that drastically reduces the legal liability of police officers. Qualified immunity limits the circumstances in which an individual can sue a police officer for violating their civil rights only to situations where the behavior violates "clearly established law." This strict legal standard curtails accountability in policing to such a degree that officers face few repercussions—even when their conduct violates the Constitution.

While it is broadly recognized within the police reform movement that changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity and Section 242 are needed, Congress will need to pass legislation for these changes to become law.

As I have stated many times, direct action is vitally important but to be effective it must be accompanied by political, legislative, and governmental action, which is necessary because the strength and foundation of democratic government rests upon the consent and confidence of the governed.

Effective enforcement of the law and administration of justice requires the confidence of the community that the law will be enforced impartially and that all persons are treated equally without regard to race or ethnicity or religion or national origin.

As the great jurist Judge Learned Hand said: "If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: thou shalt not ration justice."

Equal justice is the proud promise America makes to all persons; the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act will help make that promise a lived reality for African Americans, who have not ever known it to be true in the area of community-police relations.

And when Black Lives Matter, then and only then can it truthfully be said that all lives matter.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. GRIFFITH (at the request of Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana) for today on account of family matters.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Kevin F. McCumber, Acting Clerk of the House, reported that on May 16,

2024, the following bill was presented to the President of the United States for approval:

H.R. 3935. To amend the title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize and improve the Federal Aviation Administration and other civil aviation programs, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-4248. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's funding announcement on grants.gov — Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities-Building Markets and Investing in America's Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Owners to Strengthen U.S. Rural and Agriculture Communities [USDA-NRCS-COMM-22-NOFO0001139] received May 3, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4249. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's notice of final determination — Final Determination: Adoption of Energy Efficiency Standards for New Construction of HUD- and USDA-Financed Housing [Docket No.: FR-6271-N-03] (RIN: 2506-AC55) received May 6, 2024, 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.

EC-4250. A letter from the Program Analyst, OBPA, Rural Development-Rural Housing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — 30-Day Notification of Nonpayment of Rent in Multi-Family Housing Direct Loan Programs [Docket No.: RHS-22-MFH-0022] (RIN: 0575-AD25) received May 8, 2024, 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.

EC-4251. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's request for applications — Clean Heavy-Duty Vehicles Grants [EPA-R-OAR-CHDV-24-06] received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4252. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's submission of EPA action for Congressional review — Fiscal Year 2024 Lead Service Line Allotments for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Provisions of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4253. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's submission of EPA action for Congressional review — Implementing Lead Service Line Replacement Projects Funded by the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund received May 9, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4254. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Loan Program Office, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's direct final rule — Statutory Updates to the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Program (RIN: 1901-AB60) received May 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4255. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's interim final rule — Mandatory Transmissions and Distribution Planning Support Activities (RIN: 1930-AA01) received May 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4256. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's Temporary Staff Guidance — Safety Impact Characterization Guidance for Implementing the Risk-Informed Process for Evaluations, Revision 3, received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4257. A letter from the Chief Diversity Officer and Director, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4258. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Federal Prison Industries, Inc., Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting a report titled, "Correction of Misstatements in Previously Issued FPI Financial Statements"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4259. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4260. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a notification of a nomination, action on nomination, and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4261. A letter from the Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, transmitting the 2023 management report and financial statements of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Atlanta, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4262. A letter from the Senior Vice President, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer, Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston, transmitting the Federal Home Loan Bank of Boston 2023 management report and financial statements, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106(a)(1); Public Law 97-258 (as amended by Public Law 101-576, Sec. 306(a)); (104 Stat. 2854); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4263. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's FY 2023 No FEAR Act report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4264. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the 71st Semiannual Report of the Federal Labor Relations Authority Inspector General for the period October 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4265. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's FY 2023 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4266. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Annual Report on Website and Digital Services, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 3501 note; Public Law 115-336, Sec. 3(b)(2); (132 Stat. 5026); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4267. A letter from the Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4268. A letter from the Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia, transmitting the 2023 Family Court Annual Report of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, pursuant to Public Law 107-114, Sec. 4(a); (115 Stat. 2111); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4269. A letter from the Vice Chairman and Acting Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting a report titled, "Federal Entity Inspector General Report FY 2023", pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 415(h)(2); Added by Public Law 117-263, Sec. 3(b); (136 Stat. 4242) and 5 U.S.C. 4103 note; Public Law 117-348, Sec. 122(e); (136 Stat. 6218); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4270. A letter from the Director, United States Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's FY 2023 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-4271. A letter from the Administrative Specialist for Policy, Management and Budget, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Acquisition Regulations; Buy Indian Act; Procedures for Contracting [DOI-2019-0012; 212D0102DM DS62500000 DLSN000000.000000 DX62501] (RIN: 1090-AB21) received May 6, 2024, 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.

EC-4272. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's FY 2023 FAST-41 Permitting Best Practices Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4370m-7(a)(3); Public Law 114-94, div. D, title XLI, Sec. 41008 (as amended by Public Law 117-58 div. G, title VIII, Sec. 70801(f)); (135 Stat. 1293); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-4273. A letter from the Chair, United States Sentencing Commission, transmitting amendments to the federal sentencing guidelines, policy statements, and official commentary, together with the reasons for amendment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 994(p); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 217(a) (as amended by Public Law 100-690, Sec. 7109); (102 Stat. 4419); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4274. A letter from the Senior Attorney Advisor, Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs [Docket No.: FHWA-2018-0039] (RIN: 2125-AF79) received May 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4275. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's 62nd Annual Report for FY 2023, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 46106(a); Public Law 109-304, Sec. 4; (120 Stat. 1489); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4276. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of the Yucaipa Valley Viticultural Area [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0008; T.D. TTB-193; Ref. Notice No. 214] (RIN: 1513-AC85) received May 17, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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:

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 6160. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program; with an amendment (Rept. 118-513). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7153. A bill to reauthorize the Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-514). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7218. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-515). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mrs. HOUCIN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1243. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4763) to provide for a system of regulation of digital assets by the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 5403) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to

prohibit the Federal reserve banks from offering certain products or services directly to an individual, to prohibit the use of central bank digital currency for monetary policy, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 192) to prohibit individuals who are not citizens of the United States from voting in elections in the District of Columbia (Rept. 118-516). Referred to the House Calendar.

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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8467. A bill to provide for the reform and continuation of agricultural and other programs of the Department of Agriculture through fiscal year 2029, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 8468. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to terminate the eligibility of certain individuals for student loan forgiveness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. BROWN (for herself, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 8469. A bill to establish in the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency of the Department of Homeland Security a program to promote the cybersecurity field to disadvantaged communities, including older individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, geographically diverse communities, socioeconomically diverse communities, women, individuals from nontraditional educational paths, individuals who are veterans, and individuals who were formerly incarcerated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. TLAIB, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 8470. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE):

H.R. 8471. A bill to support United States investment opportunities, strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon,

and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. MOLINARO, and Mr. McGOVERN):

H.R. 8472. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 8473. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a report in the event that the assessment of the Army force structure using the process known as "Total Army Analysis" does not include certain missions; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 8474. A bill to make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8475. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on the correlation between service in the Armed Forces conducting explosive ordnance disposal and post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CRAWFORD (for himself and Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia):

H.R. 8476. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as principal official responsible for explosive ordnance disposal; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. D'ESPPOSITO (for himself and Mr. LALOTA):

H.R. 8477. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a curriculum to train State, local, Tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and report acts of organized retail crime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 8478. A bill to amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. BERGMAN, and Mr. WALTZ):

H.R. 8479. A bill to establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, and Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 8480. A bill to require agencies to update mortgage underwriting programs, guidelines, standards, and systems to require

lenders to consider, in the mortgage credit evaluation process, any amounts a borrower has in any brokerage account associated with a cryptocurrency exchange; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 8481. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish an extended deadline for the submission of applications regarding emergency treatment furnished in non-Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 8482. A bill to deter conflict in the Taiwan Strait by establishing conditions for suspending normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8483. A bill to amend the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024, to make a technical correction to the Federal payment made in such Act to the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 8484. A bill to amend the Buy Indian Act to include the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MFUME, Ms. BUSH, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. FROST, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. PRESSLEY):

H.R. 8485. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the President, Vice President, Members of Congress, and other senior Executive branch personnel from accepting any foreign emoluments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, and Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8486. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to establish a thriving communities grant program; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Mr. BACON):

H.R. 8487. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to exempt widows and widowers of police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers from the government pension offset; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 8488. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to expand the provision of farmer-led technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr.

BALDERSON, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. PERRY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. LATTA:

H.J. Res. 151. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to “Supplemental Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. BALINT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ESPAILLAT):

H. Res. 1244. A resolution censuring Associate Justice Samuel Alito, Jr., for knowingly violating the Federal recusal statute and binding ethics standards; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Ms. TITUS, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H. Res. 1245. A resolution recognizing “National Public Works Week”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUIZENGA (for himself, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. NORMAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. FENSTRA, Mr. MORAN, and Mrs. KIM of California):

H. Res. 1246. A resolution condemning the Department of State’s statement expressing condolences for the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, Foreign Minister Amir-Abdollahian, and other members of their delegation; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. FRY, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1247. A resolution recognizing the importance of “National Safe Boating Week”; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. MENG (for herself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. BROWNLÉY, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PORTER, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. VELÁQUEZ):

H. Res. 1248. A resolution recognizing the impact the stigmatization of menstruation has on the lives of women, girls, and people who menstruate, and expressing support for the designation of the month of May as “National Menstrual Health Awareness Month”; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H. Res. 1249. A resolution recognizing on Memorial Day, May 27, 2024, the denial of full participation in their Government through statehood by active duty servicemembers, National Guard members, reservists, veterans, and their families who are residents of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-107. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Ari-

zona, relative to Senate Concurrent Memorial 1004, urging the United States Congress to enact legislation establishing a Space National Guard; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

ML-108. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2008, urging the United States Congress and President to repeal or amend the Antiquities Act of 1906; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-109. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Arizona, relative to House Concurrent Memorial 2007, urging the President of the United States to rescind or revoke the designation of the Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument and opposing any such future designation in the state of Arizona; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-110. Also, a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, relative to Substitute House Concurrent Resolution Number 6, urging the Congress of the United States to repeal the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:
H.R. 8467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The ability to regulate interstate commerce and with foreign Nations pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 includes the power to regulate commodity prices, practices affecting them and the trading or donation of the commodities to impoverished nations. In addition, the Congress has the power to provide for the general Welfare of the United States under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 which includes the power to promote the development of Rural America through research and extension of credit.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The programs and activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and related Agencies.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 8468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation would prohibit students and faculty from receiving federal student loan forgiveness if they are expelled or terminated for a hate crime, disorderly conduct, trespassing, creating a public disturbance, or violating titles IV or VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

By Ms. BROWN:

H.R. 8469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a program to promote the cybersecurity field to disadvantaged communities.

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 8470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 8471.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the U.S.C.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill aims to counter organized criminal and drug trafficking groups who are devastating communities in and around the Brazilian Amazon, upending rule of law, and accelerating environmental degradation and deforestation.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 8472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To support the expansion of freight rail infrastructure to support the transport of agricultural inputs and products to farms.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of the Army to submit to Congress a report in the event that the assessment of the Army force structure using the process known as “Total Army Analysis” does not include certain missions.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make certain improvements to incentive pay for explosive ordnance disposal duty.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8475.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Defense to submit to Congress a report on the correlation between service in the Armed Forces conducting explosive ordnance disposal and post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and suicide.

By Mr. CRAWFORD:

H.R. 8476.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of the Army to designate the Deputy Under Secretary of the Army as principal official responsible for explosive ordnance disposal.

By Mr. D’ESPOSITO:

H.R. 8477.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a curriculum to train State, local, Tribal, territorial, and campus law enforcement agencies to identify, investigate, and report acts of organized retail crime, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GOTTHEIMER:

H.R. 8478.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 8479.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an Interagency Council on Service to promote and strengthen opportunities for military service, national service, and public service for all people of the United States, as well as related actions.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 8480.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require agencies to update mortgage underwriting programs, guidelines, standards, and systems to require lenders to consider, in the mortgage credit evaluation process, any amounts a borrower has in any brokerage account associated with a cryptocurrency exchange.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 8481.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would extend the Department of Veterans Affairs emergency community care notification deadline from 72-hours after emergency care starts, to 72-hours after discharge of receiving such care.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 8482.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 7, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill will seek to deter conflict in the Taiwan Strait by establishing a policy to revoke Permanent Normal Trade Relations (“PNTR”) with the People’s Republic of China (“PRC”) if the PRC government invades Taiwan.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 8483.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would fix a drafting error in the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 relating to the appropriation for the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 8484.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Buy Indian Act to include the Secretary of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 8485.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 8: No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States. And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This legislation enforces the Constitution’s Foreign Emoluments Clause.

By Mrs. TORRES of California:

H.R. 8486.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

According to Article 1. Section 8 Clause 18: of the United States Constitution, seen below, this bill falls within the Constitutional Authority of the United States Congress.

Article 1: Section 8: Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in

The single subject of this legislation is: transportation grant

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 8487.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to exempt widows and widowers of police officers, firefighters, and correctional officers from the government pension offset.

By Mr. VASQUEZ:

H.R. 8488.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United State Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of the Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Agriculture

By Mr. COLLINS:

H.J. Res. 151.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environmental

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 11: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 12: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 20: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 45: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 431: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 472: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 549: Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 594: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 595: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 625: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 631: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 660: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 694: Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. RUIZ, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 709: Mr. DOGGETT and Mr. AMO.

H.R. 716: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 723: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 770: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 798: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 827: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 865: Mr. AMO.

H.R. 866: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 894: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 977: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 984: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 1088: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1092: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 1097: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1111: Mrs. CHERILUS-McCORMICK.

H.R. 1179: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 1199: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 1359: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 1385: Mr. FLOOD and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1415: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 1425: Mr. ROSE.

H.R. 1447: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1477: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1572: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 1610: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 1637: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 1691: Ms. BARRAGÁN.

H.R. 1831: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 2390: Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 2400: Mr. CISCOMANI.

H.R. 2412: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 2439: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H.R. 2584: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2598: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 2630: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 2639: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 2662: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 2663: Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2711: Mr. VEASEY.

H.R. 2720: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2722: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 2726: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2748: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2808: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 2880: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 2891: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 2923: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 2933: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H.R. 2940: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. MRVAN.

H.R. 2998: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3002: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3003: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3018: Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3019: Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PORTER, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. SORENSEN, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 3165: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3184: Mr. KENNEDY.

H.R. 3199: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3213: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3312: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3347: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.

H.R. 3409: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3481: Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. HOYER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. VEASEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 3499: Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 3501: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CASTEN, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 3503: Mr. CROW and Ms. McCLELLAN.

H.R. 3537: Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 3619: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3620: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3621: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3622: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3639: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3652: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 3730: Mr. FLOOD.

H.R. 3768: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3855: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3882: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 3933: Mr. FRY.

H.R. 3940: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 4048: Ms. VELAZQUEZ.

H.R. 4122: Mr. AMO.

H.R. 4137: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4154: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 4184: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 4285: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 4289: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 4326: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 4340: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 4384: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4391: Ms. JAYAPAL and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.

H.R. 4605: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4646: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 4663: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 4757: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 4817: Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 4818: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 4838: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 4895: Ms. LEE of California.
 H.R. 4995: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 5003: Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 5030: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 5199: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
 H.R. 5248: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H.R. 5357: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 5400: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 5437: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 5488: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H.R. 5577: Mr. CRENshaw.
 H.R. 5744: Mr. HIMES, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 5778: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H.R. 5813: Mr. CROW.
 H.R. 5837: Mr. RUTHERFORD and Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 5887: Ms. PORTER.
 H.R. 5909: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. LAWLER, and Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H.R. 5970: Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H.R. 5973: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 5976: Mr. THANEDAR.
 H.R. 5995: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
 H.R. 6031: Ms. BALINT.
 H.R. 6111: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 6257: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. PETERSEN.
 H.R. 6286: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 6435: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
 H.R. 6498: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 6516: Mr. SORENSEN.
 H.R. 6600: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
 H.R. 6634: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 6640: Mr. TRONE.
 H.R. 6652: Ms. STANSBURY.
 H.R. 6664: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 6672: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 6727: Ms. LETLOW, Ms. MENG, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
 H.R. 6815: Ms. PETERSEN.
 H.R. 6829: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 6881: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 6899: Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 6892: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
 H.R. 6944: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Mr. AGUILAR.
 H.R. 6951: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. DONALDS.
 H.R. 6969: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CASTEN, and Mrs. FLETCHER.
 H.R. 7000: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 7007: Ms. CROCKETT.
 H.R. 7039: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
 H.R. 7099: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 7191: Mr. CASTEN.
 H.R. 7198: Mr. STAUBER and Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7218: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 7227: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 7248: Mr. CÁRDENAS.
 H.R. 7258: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 7273: Mr. BABIN.
 H.R. 7354: Mr. DELUZIO.
 H.R. 7378: Mr. GARAMENDI.
 H.R. 7384: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
 H.R. 7409: Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H.R. 7438: Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. McCCLAIN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Ms. PEREZ, and Mr. LATURNER.
 H.R. 7442: Mr. MEUSER.
 H.R. 7479: Mr. CRANE and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.R. 7490: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
 H.R. 7494: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 7515: Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H.R. 7516: Mrs. PELTOLA.
 H.R. 7613: Mr. BUCHANAN.
 H.R. 7629: Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. BALINT, Mr. LEVIN, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 7636: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. WENSTRUP.
 H.R. 7675: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H.R. 7681: Mr. SUOZZI and Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 7698: Mr. BACON.
 H.R. 7743: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 7747: Mrs. WAGNER.
 H.R. 7749: Mr. DELUZIO.
 H.R. 7752: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
 H.R. 7770: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. CHU, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. IVEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
 H.R. 7771: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.R. 7784: Mr. GOOD of Virginia and Mr. PERRY.
 H.R. 7790: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 7808: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
 H.R. 7825: Ms. TLAIB.
 H.R. 7829: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 7841: Mr. ALLRED.
 H.R. 7859: Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CARL, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
 H.R. 7862: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 7866: Mr. TORRES of New York.
 H.R. 7882: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 7900: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 7906: Mr. MOOLENAAR.
 H.R. 7909: Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 7925: Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 7939: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.R. 7959: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 7999: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H.R. 8003: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.R. 8011: Mr. YAKYM.
 H.R. 8018: Mr. KILEY.
 H.R. 8046: Mr. DOGGETT.
 H.R. 8054: Ms. JACOBS.
 H.R. 8060: Mr. STAUBER.
 H.R. 8061: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOFGREN, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8076: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. NORMAN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. COHEN.
 H.R. 8107: Mrs. STEEL.
 H.R. 8127: Mrs. BEATTY and Ms. CROCKETT.
 H.R. 8164: Ms. TITUS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 8179: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
 H.R. 8206: Mrs. CAMMACK.
 H.R. 8221: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.R. 8282: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. MILLS, Mr. CRANE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CLYDE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. LATURNER, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 8290: Mr. CLINE.
 H.R. 8295: Mr. LAWLER and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 8315: Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MAST, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, and Mrs. KIM of California.
 H.R. 8319: Mr. TORRES of New York.
 H.R. 8323: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.
 H.R. 8331: Mr. KILDEE.
 H.R. 8333: Mrs. BICE and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
 H.R. 8336: Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 8349: Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 8368: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. CONNOLLY.
 H.R. 8370: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 8371: Mrs. LESKO.
 H.R. 8373: Mr. ROSE.
 H.R. 8375: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8376: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8377: Ms. CRAIG.
 H.R. 8384: Ms. HOULAHAN and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 8385: Ms. NORTON.
 H.R. 8391: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
 H.R. 8399: Ms. LEE of Florida.
 H.R. 8410: Mr. STEUBE.
 H.R. 8419: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8426: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. PETERSEN, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8430: Mr. CRANE and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 8432: Mr. BIGGS and Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 8433: Mr. CRENshaw and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 8434: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.R. 8437: Ms. FOXX, Mr. BAIRD, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
 H.R. 8459: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. TENNEY.
 H.R. 8466: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
 H.J. Res. 76: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
 H.J. Res. 82: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.J. Res. 97: Mr. BURCHETT.
 H.J. Res. 123: Mr. NORMAN.
 H.J. Res. 131: Mr. VAN DREW.
 H.J. Res. 134: Mr. WEBER of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 135: Mr. BAIRD.
 H.J. Res. 136: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H.J. Res. 138: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, and Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.J. Res. 139: Mr. ESTES, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.J. Res. 140: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 141: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 142: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 143: Mr. BURLISON, Ms. VAN DUYNE, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
 H.J. Res. 144: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. VAN DUYNE.
 H. Res. 269: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H. Res. 376: Mr. LAWLER.
 H. Res. 413: Mr. KENNEDY.
 H. Res. 616: Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE of Florida, Ms. MANNING, and Mr. BERA.
 H. Res. 837: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. LAWLER.
 H. Res. 988: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
 H. Res. 1063: Mr. HIMES.
 H. Res. 1072: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Res. 1148: Mr. CAREY, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H. Res. 1180: Mr. HORSFORD.
 H. Res. 1187: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 1198: Mr. CARSON.
 H. Res. 1206: Mr. CASTEN, Mr. AMO, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H. Res. 1214: Mr. KEATING.
 H. Res. 1222: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
 H. Res. 1229: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MC CORMICK, Ms. PORTER, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H. Res. 1233: Ms. PORTER.
 H. Res. 1242: Ms. WILD and Mr. TRONE.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative CASAR or a designee to H.R. 4763, the Financial Innovation and Technology for the 21st Century Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-11. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, relative to House Resolution No. 23-15, to recognize and call for an immediate de- escalation and cease-fire in Israel and occupied Palestine; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.