

Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the British-American Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: The Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE).

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276d-276g, as amended, the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator as Vice Chairman of the Senate Delegation to the Canada-U.S. Interparliamentary Group Conference during the 119th Congress: The Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR).

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 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. MALOY) at 3 o'clock and 30 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 on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

PROCUREMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 250) to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 250

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

SECTION 1. PROCUREMENT AND PLACEMENT OF STATUE OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN IN THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL.

(a) OBTAINING OF STATUE.—Not later than December 31, 2025, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin, under such terms and conditions as the Joint Committee considers appropriate consistent with applicable law.

(b) PLACEMENT.—Not later than December 31, 2026, the Joint Committee shall place the statue obtained under subsection (a) in a suitable permanent location in the United States Capitol where the statue is accessible

to the public during a guided tour of the Capitol provided by the Capitol Visitor Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. 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 Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, today I bring forward two bills. Our Nation faces major challenges and concerns, and this body continues to work on those. While we do that, these bills are simple and non-controversial and do require legislative action to take effect.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to support H.R. 250 to direct the Joint Committee on the Library to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol.

The nonpartisan legislation will allow Congress to place a statue of Benjamin Franklin in the Capitol. The legislation will require that not later than 2 years after enactment, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into an agreement to obtain a statue of Benjamin Franklin. It will also be required that the statue be placed in a publicly accessible permanent location no later than December 31, 2026.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representatives HOULAHAN and FITZPATRICK and their 72 additional cosponsors for bringing this legislation forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 250, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking my dear friend and colleague, the chair of the Committee on House Administration, for bringing these bills to the floor and also for his partnership and all the great cooperation that we enjoy.

I rise today in support of H.R. 250. The bipartisan legislation would direct the Joint Committee on the Library, as Mr. STEIL said, to procure a statue of Benjamin Franklin for placement in the Capitol to be observed by all those blessed to come and tour the United States Capitol.

As my colleague and friend, the sponsor of this bill, along with Representatives BRIAN FITZPATRICK and CRISSY HOULAHAN have observed—and I am quite certain will observe once again in just a few moments—while there are references to Benjamin Franklin across the Capitol and a statue tucked away in a back hallway, it is black when

there are no lights on. There is no statue of one of the most important Founding Fathers accessible to the millions of visitors who have the privilege of touring the Capitol each year.

This legislation would change that, honoring one of the greatest minds and patriots in American history.

Benjamin Franklin was a statesman, diplomat, scientist, inventor, political philosopher, and businessman. His groundbreaking experiments pushed forward scientific understanding, his role as the first Postmaster General created the foundation of our modern mail system, and he was resolutely committed to freeing the Colonies from British rule.

He helped draft both the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution, and he negotiated the treaty that ended the Revolutionary War. His genius has shaped our Nation in innumerable ways, and he deserves to be prominently displayed and honored in the United States Capitol.

Madam Speaker, I look forward to working with the Joint Committee on the Library to obtain a new statue of Benjamin Franklin. I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) to speak on the bill.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman, my friend from Wisconsin, Representative STEIL, for yielding.

To my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), this is really the product of her hard work. I was proud to partner with her and accept an invitation. If Benjamin Franklin were here today, he would give Representative HOULAHAN a big hug of gratitude for finally recognizing him.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in resolute support of H.R. 250, the Benjamin Franklin statue placement act. Alongside my friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Congresswoman HOULAHAN, I am proud to advance this effort to enshrine one of America's most extraordinary minds and consequential patriots in the heart of our Nation's Capitol.

Madam Speaker, few figures in our history so fully embody the spirit of American ingenuity, perseverance, and democratic virtue as Benjamin Franklin. He was a statesman whose diplomacy secured our independence, a philosopher whose wisdom guided our early Republic, and an inventor whose genius advanced mankind.

More than a son of Pennsylvania, Benjamin Franklin was and remains a towering architect of the American experiment, a testament to what is possible when vision and virtue work in concert with one another.

As we approach the 250th anniversary of our great Nation, it is both fitting and necessary that Benjamin Franklin take his rightful place amongst the great figures enshrined in this amazing