

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BUSTOS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BUSTOS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING DR. JAMES MERRITT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. WOODALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WOODALL. Mr. Speaker, I have the honor of hosting the guest chaplain today, and I believe you were feeling his words that we are all going to be held to account at the end, as you recall, in that vote series there. Those are powerful words, and it is not just something he shares in Congress today; it is something he shares with our entire community.

If you recognized his voice in that prayer, Mr. Speaker, it is because he is the host of the Touching Lives Ministry. It can be seen in all 50 States and around the world.

He has his lovely bride of more than four decades, Teresa, with him here in the gallery, and he leads back in my home State, Mr. Speaker, Cross Pointe Church in Duluth.

He left First Baptist Church Snellville and was called to plant a new congregation. It is a powerful ministry, not just with the Word, but with what the Word tells us we should do in deed, and it is lived out there every day.

From 2000 to 2002, Mr. Speaker, he was the president of the Southern Bap-

tist Convention. I told the gentleman earlier that, if he can handle church politics, he can certainly handle the politics that we are involved in here.

But the honor for me, because I have such deep respect for all of my colleagues here, is to share a little bit of back home with each one of you.

Dr. MERRITT embodies the Seventh Congressional District values of faith and family and duty, and I am grateful to him, not just for his prayers in ministry to me, not just for his prayers in ministry to our community, but to the entire Nation and to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

SECURE OUR ELECTIONS

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

Mrs. BUSTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that Russia, a foreign adversary, interfered in our election and even breached the voter database for the State of Illinois, my home State.

For the sake of our national security, this is an issue that must be addressed by the United States Congress because this isn't a Republican issue and it is not a Democratic issue. It is our duty as Americans and elected officials to protect our democracy.

That is why, this week, we will pass the Securing America's Federal Elections Act. Our bill would require voting machines to be manufactured in the United States of America. It would also make investments to secure our elections and prevent interference from foreign enemies in the future.

As Members of Congress, we take an oath to protect our Constitution and our democracy. I hope both Republicans and Democrats will come together to support this bill and secure our elections.

CELEBRATING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

(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, Religious Freedom Week began on Saturday and runs through June 29.

Freedom of religion is a fundamental human right and is protected by our Constitution. The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, along with freedom of speech and freedom of the press. This affords us the opportunity to have open and thoughtful debates on the floor of the House each and every day.

The United States is a place where people of all faiths can peaceably prac-

tice their religion without fear of persecution, which is something we have recognized since our founding. The very foundation of our Nation, a place of freedom and liberty for all, was conceived by individuals in search of religious freedom.

Mr. Speaker, the United States of America will always be a beacon of light in the world, and we will always protect our fundamental, unified commitment to religious freedom. It is a central part of what makes America exceptional. It affords our citizens the right to live in a free society, because no person should live in fear for their beliefs.

SPLIT TOLLING ON THE VERRAZZANO-NARROWS BRIDGE

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the appropriations bill on the floor this week that would implement split tolling on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge.

This legislation is common sense. It is nonpartisan, and it represents a massive win for all New Yorkers. It addresses the unintended consequences of an archaic 30-year-old piece of legislation that singled out Staten Island and South Brooklyn with the only bridge in the country whose technology is controlled by Congress.

Split tolling removes an obsolete mandate that cars on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge only be tolled as they arrive in Staten Island, meaning that eastbound drivers across the bridge move across toll-free. Thousands of cars each day take advantage of this free ride and cause unnecessary congestion on Staten Island, in Brooklyn, and in Manhattan.

Split tolling cuts the toll in half and collects it in both directions, closing the loophole, and at no cost to commuters in Brooklyn or on Staten Island.

Cutting down on out-of-State toll shopping will also generate revenues for New York to invest in mass transit projects on Staten Island and in South Brooklyn, two places that all levels of government have consistently ignored or ripped off for a generation now.

Finally, my constituents are starting to see a new day after a long commuting nightmare: fewer cars on our streets, better buses, more mass transit options, and credible alternatives to reach the other boroughs.

This is commonsense legislation, and we are going to get it done.

PRO ACT HURTS JOB CREATORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

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

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a small business owner

concerned about the PRO Act, a bill that will harm both job creators and their employees.

The PRO Act would amend the National Labor Relations Act and repeal right-to-work laws. Right-to-work laws protect employees from being fired for not paying monetary support to a union they don't want to join.

The PRO Act also takes away employers' rights in National Labor Relations Board cases by taking away their standing and giving employers no recourse to the NLRB.

My district is home to over 2,100 small franchise business owners that could be negatively impacted by this bill. It will hurt businesses like Arrington Enterprises, Inc., which operates Dairy Queens, Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuits, and Exxon stores in Franklin County.

Aside from delivering a quality product, Arrington Enterprises, Inc., has collected close to \$18,000 for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals and donated \$4,800 to local schools so far this year.

In closing, this bill would hurt local businesses and local workers.

WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I am not in the habit of praising the President from this perch, but I do want to say that I am very pleased that we are not in yet another shooting war in the Middle East today.

I think we came very, very close, and I appreciate that the President had the courage to stand down some raids that, undoubtedly, would have led to a response and led to another war in the Middle East.

I know he does that at the risk of being criticized for potentially damaging American credibility, but we are not in a war today. That is an argument for history.

What is not an argument for history is that any aggression, any military action against Iran, must be approved by the Congress of the United States. It is clear in the Constitution that a decision to go to war must be made in this building.

I urge my friends on both sides of the aisle to reflect on the reason for that. If we are going to sacrifice blood and treasure, the Representatives of the people must make that decision, not one individual at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Now is the time for us to consider whether another Middle Eastern war makes sense for the people of the United States of America.

OBSERVING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

(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, I rise today to recognize June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Alzheimer's disease affects more than 5 million Americans. It is also our Nation's most expensive disease.

We have got to continue working toward finding a cure for Alzheimer's; but, in the meantime, we have to cut down on preventable hospitalizations and lower the cost of care. That is why I cosponsored the BOLD Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act last Congress, which President Trump has since signed into law. This bill will help educate community members and doctors on dementia detection, diagnosis, and symptom management.

This Congress, I cosponsored the bipartisan Younger Onset Alzheimer's Act, to ensure younger people dealing with dementia or other symptoms have access to the counseling and support they need.

I urge my colleagues, family, friends, and neighbors to do their part and know the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease. Education and awareness can make a huge difference in a person's life.

STOP BUSTING THE BUDGET CAP

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

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the appropriations minibus that we will be voting on this afternoon.

Like the first appropriations package, this legislation is being considered without reaching a budget agreement, and it would bust the budget caps by over \$350 billion in fiscal years '20 and '21.

Not only is the majority spending out of control on programs we currently have, but they are creating new programs in these bills. This circumvents the authorization process and compounds the debt problem.

Last week, I submitted an amendment to eliminate funding for one of these new pilot programs that would use Americans' hard-earned tax dollars to provide legal representation to those arriving at our southern border. My amendment would have reallocated that funding to assist victims of human trafficking and address school violence, both issues growing at the local level in our communities.

Unfortunately, Democrats on the Rules Committee voted along party lines to prevent my amendment from coming to the floor. I call on Democrat leadership to stop silencing common-sense proposals and let us debate those tough issues. It is what we were elected to do.

□ 1215

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) laid before the House the fol-

lowing communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, June 25, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM 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 June 25, 2019, at 9:21 a.m.:

Appointment:
Board of Visitors of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO JAPAN-UNITED STATES FRIENDSHIP COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2903, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Japan-United States Friendship Commission:

Mr. HILL, Arkansas

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts:

Mr. SMITH, Missouri

COMMUNICATION FROM THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable KEVIN McCARTHY, Republican Leader:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 8, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to House Resolution 6 Section 104(a), I am pleased to appoint remaining Republican Members to the House Democracy Partnership:

Hon. JEFF FORTENBERRY of Nebraska.

Hon. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY of Texas.

Hon. ADRIAN SMITH of Nebraska.

Hon. STEVE WOMACK of Arkansas.

Hon. BILL FLORES of Texas.

Hon. JACKIE WALORSKI of Indiana.

Hon. TOM RICE of South Carolina.

Hon. MARKWAYNE MULLIN of Oklahoma.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

KEVIN McCARTHY,
Republican Leader.