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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, September 23, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of all creation, thank You for giving us another day. At the end of a very busy week, we ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House. As they face a rare short week-end, may they be refreshed so as to return for a busy week to address the salient issues of these days.

We ask Your blessing today for the people in and around Houston, who again find themselves dealing with serious damages due to flooding. May they and those many first responders be safe as they begin the recovery of their community.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam 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. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CHABOT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

HONORING RICHARD SWANN

(Mrs. MURPHY of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the extraordinary life and enduring legacy of Richard Swann, a constituent of mine who recently passed away.

Richard's life was overflowing with action and accomplishment, trial and

triumph, and above all, family and friendship. Richard lost his childhood sweetheart and beloved wife, Doris, too young, but he poured his energy into his work, into his 4 children and 12 grandchildren, and into his large and loyal network of friends.

Richard was a wise lawyer, a far-sighted businessman, a real estate developer, and an influential player at the highest levels of American and Florida politics. Richard was a proud Orlando native and foresaw the city's potential before nearly anybody else. Richard did as much as any man to transform Orlando into the wonderful place it is today.

Richard was best known as a champion of the political causes and candidates he cared about. He was committed to the concept of responsible and engaged citizenship.

At the service celebrating Richard's life, his granddaughter Caroline read an excerpt from Teddy Roosevelt's speech, "The Man in the Arena." Richard never sat on the sidelines. He was always in the arena, striving valiantly and daring greatly.

Richard was a pillar of our central Florida community. He will be deeply missed by all of us who had the honor to call him a friend.

CONGRATULATING CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

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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Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Cincinnati State Technical and Community College for 50 years of service to the greater Cincinnati community.

I have been privileged to visit Cincinnati State many times, most recently the Evendale campus to see firsthand the opportunities they provide to so many students. With four campuses, small class sizes, and over 100 associate degree programs, Cincinnati State is truly an excellent college.

Perhaps most notably, Cincinnati State plays a critical role in developing our region's workforce. Through extensive co-op programs and relationships with the University of Cincinnati and 600 industry partners, Cincinnati State paves many career paths, especially for nontraditional students.

Finally, I thank Dr. Monica Posey for her dedication to making Cincinnati State an even greater asset to our community.

Congratulations to Cincinnati State on its 50th anniversary. We look forward to many more.

STAND UP FOR CONSUMERS BY SUPPORTING FAIR ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, every day, thousands of Americans unwittingly sign contracts for nursing homes, credit cards, and employment contracts that surrender their rights to their day in court before an impartial judge and jury.

Instead, buried in the fine print of the contract, they agree to rely on an arbitrator who doesn't have to follow the law or facts and will have every incentive to favor the special interests that could give them repeat business.

Typically, arbitration is not public. The Wells Fargo practice of opening unauthorized bank accounts would have undoubtedly been exposed and ended sooner if Wells Fargo hadn't enforced mandatory arbitration.

This is our chance to stand up for consumers, justice, and fairness. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1423, the FAIR Act.

ENSURE FREE AND FAIR TRADE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, every day that Speaker PELOSI delays a vote on the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, American workers and their families are hurt. Right now, farmers, ranchers, and businesses in Georgia and across the country face unnecessary uncertainty.

This trade deal is vital to our economy, and passing USMCA would be a huge win for the American people. Canada and Mexico both serve as top mar-

kets for a number of our U.S. agricultural products.

In Georgia, 22,558 jobs depend on manufacturing exports to Canada and Mexico.

Passing this trade agreement would also strengthen our already vibrant economy. The USMCA can add another 176,000 new jobs and add \$68.2 billion to GDP growth.

Let's ensure free and fair trade while granting our farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers the protections they deserve.

I urge my Democratic colleagues to end these partisan politics and pass USMCA or, at the very least, put the bill on the House floor for a vote.

CONGRATULATING DR. NEIL SHARKEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a friend and educational leader, Dr. Neil Sharkey, vice president for research at Penn State University, upon his retirement.

For the last 22 years, Dr. Sharkey has managed, facilitated, and advanced the university's entire research portfolio to dig deeper and discover innovative solutions to society's most challenging questions.

Under Dr. Sharkey's leadership, Penn State's research expenditures reached an all-time high in 2017 and 2018, totaling \$927 million. This investment in the university's research has helped fund important research projects in life sciences, cyber science, social science, cancer research, energy and the environment, and a variety of other interdisciplinary fields.

Before his position as vice president of research, Dr. Sharkey served as the associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Health and Human Development, as well as a professor of kinesiology.

I always say we cannot make good decisions without good data. Dr. Sharkey has been a leader in this feat, and I wish him the best of luck as he embarks on his new endeavors.

ALLOW AMERICANS TO PURCHASE VEHICLES THAT FIT THEIR NEEDS

(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 applaud the efforts of U.S. EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler and Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao with regard to the unreasonable automobile fuel mileage standards put upon consumers by a 2015 Obama-era rule.

In only 5 model years from now, all U.S. cars would have to average 55 miles per gallon under this current

standard. Most people drive cars these days that are somewhere around 25 to 33 miles per gallon. They would be forced into very small cars that don't fit their family's needs.

What the administration is seeking to do is freeze this timeline at 37 miles per gallon until technology can catch up, et cetera, so people can choose to buy cars that fit their lives. Under the old rule and what the California Air Resources Board is trying to foist upon all 50 States in meeting the Obama rule, they will not have that choice anymore.

Unfortunately, a few scared automakers have sat down with CARB to try to cut a deal to fix the one they agreed to a few years ago with no real idea of how they would meet 55 miles per gallon with current technology and physics at the time. At this point, there are very few 55-mile-per-gallon vehicles to even choose from. Most people don't want to buy those cars because it doesn't fit their family, their life, what they want, and what they desire.

CARB is trying to foist that on all 50 States, and auto manufacturers will be herded toward it by desiring to make the same car type for all 50 States, not just California. This needs to be stopped, and we must draw the line here.

FORCED ARBITRATION INJUSTICE REPEAL ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 1423, Forced Arbitration Injustice Repeal Act, or the FAIR Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Rhode Island?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 558 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1423.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1423) to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration, with Ms. UNDERWOOD in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary.