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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 25, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

House of Representatives

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LAWRENCE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
August 22, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRENDA L. LAWRENCE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:
God of us all, we thank You for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House gathered here at the Capitol for an extraordinary session in extraordinary times.

Inspire them with wisdom as they hope to address the needs of our Nation in such a difficult period of our shared history.

Continue to bless those who labor to attend to the sick among our citizens, and those also who strive to find effective treatments and vaccines. Keep us all safe, in Your divine mercy.

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

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, first, I thank the Postal workers across this Nation who work so tirelessly to ensure we receive our mail in a timely fashion and are now doing it under tremendous difficulty. Almost every business, from the largest corporation to the smallest hometown operation, relies on the Postal Service.

But for those businesses, those families—medicine, food, and goods are in jeopardy, not from a foreign adversary and not from war, but from attack within our borders, from those in charge, from the Postmaster General.

Why?

What is the primary purpose?

It is to subvert an election.

Today and Monday we will combat that attack. We will give the funding and the procedures necessary to restore and support the U.S. Post Office.

We have also responded to the unanimous request of the Trump-appointed Postal Board of Governors for \$25 billion in much-needed emergency operational relief.

For over 200 years, neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night has stayed these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds. Let it not be on our watch that this legacy ends.

THE BLUFFS RESTAURANT

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, 10 years ago, the Bluffs Restaurant, a wonderfully historic establishment on the Blue Ridge Parkway in the Fifth District, closed its doors. Today it is reopening thanks to over 500 donors who contributed more than \$1 million for repairs.

In 1949 the Bluffs was the first restaurant to open on the Blue Ridge Parkway, and it served customers for more than 61 years. Generations of families have passed through its doors, and they have returned time and again. For them it is not just about the food, it is also about the countless memories that have been made there.

My plan was to attend the reopening event today. Unfortunately, I could

□ 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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not. But I still want to thank owners Shana Whitehead and Bill Heath for reopening and wish them the best in this endeavor.

PROTECTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, for 228 years the United States Postal Service has delivered for the American people. It is an institution built on trust, trust that the United States military veterans will receive their prescriptions each and every month, trust that Social Security recipients will receive their checks each and every month, and trust that small businesses can manage and grow with the assistance of the United States Postal Service.

Today, the trust and confidence of the United States Postal Service is under attack by the very administration and Postmaster General who should be protecting the time-honored tradition of that institution.

Yesterday we stood outside the mail processing facility in Buffalo where five sorting machines were removed without explanation.

This House will approve today the Delivering for America Act, an act to protect the United States Postal Service from the destructive acts of the President and his postmaster disaster.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GSGT DIEGO PONGO

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a fallen warrior and a true American hero from the beautiful 25th District of California. Gunnery Sergeant Diego Pongo of Simi Valley was killed in action by enemy fire in the Makhmur Mountains of Iraq back on March 8 of this year. Diego was a marine and part of the elite MARSOC Raiders unit charged with eliminating entrenched bastions of ISIS in Iraq.

Because of delays as a result of the COVID pandemic, Gunnery Sergeant Pongo's funeral and formal ceremony were held just 2 days ago at the hallowed ground of Arlington National Cemetery.

I had the unfortunate honor to attend services along with his family. My thoughts and prayers are with Diego and his family, his parents, Kathryn and Carlos; his brothers, Andres and Jorge; his ex-wife, Randi; and most of all his beautiful 8-year-old daughter, Avery.

Madam Speaker, we lost a true American patriot and a hero, and we, as a nation, are eternally indebted to him and his family. May we never forget.

SUPPORTING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, through the Civil War, the Spanish flu, the Great Depression, and two world wars, the United States Postal Service has not stopped. No matter the conditions—snow, rain, heat, or darkness—the dedicated men and women of the Postal Service have carried out their mission with pride. The Postal Service is one of the great pillars of our democracy. It is enshrined in the Constitution, and it is an essential service for so many.

The actions by the Postmaster General in recent weeks is a sabotage campaign aimed at manipulating the mail service, but whatever the intent, it is hurting everyday Americans—seniors, veterans, and working men and women.

In Michigan we have been told that just this month 10 mail sorting machines have been removed and destroyed. This American institution is being deliberately dismantled. It is not only an attack on the Postal Service, it is an attack on our Constitution, our way of life, and, yes, our democracy.

My message is simple: protect the Postal Service and our Republic.

PRESIDENT TRUMP PROMOTES UAE-ISRAELI PEACE TREATY

(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. Madam Speaker, this week's announcement of a U.S.-promoted peace treaty between the United Arab Emirates and Israel is an achievement of historic proportions. It is the clear result of President Donald Trump's bold foreign policy agenda with Jared Kushner creating peace through strength. This is a major step towards a more stable, peaceful, and prosperous Middle East in which all people and religions can co-exist and prosper.

Credit is due to President Trump, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan for their commitment to peace and prosperity.

The Washington Examiner editorial titled, "Team Trump Deserves Congratulations on UAE-Israel Peace Deal" is right. This agreement is a substantive and significant victory for Israelis, Emiratis, and the Trump administration.

UAE is ably represented in Washington by Yousef Al Otaiba working with Ambassador David Friedman in Jerusalem.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

DEGRADING THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I thank the extraordinary men and women who serve us in the United States Postal Service.

I rise today to highlight President Trump's shameless attempts to degrade the United States Postal Service, a revered American institution. These actions not only undermine our elections, they are gambling with people's lives.

These past several weeks I have received thousands of emails, calls, and letters from constituents pleading that these changes be reversed. Just this week I heard from a constituent with diabetes who feared her family was at risk of losing their insurance after learning her payment had arrived 1 month late after it was mailed. Her story is, sadly one of many being heard across the Nation.

COVID-19 has already brought on significant financial trouble for so many families. To further hurt working families now facing late fees on rent or car payments through no fault of their own is unconscionable.

House Democrats have promised to get government working for the people, and today's bill is another example of that commitment.

Everybody loves the Post Office. It has been with us since the founding of our country, knitting together communities, and this attempt to undermine and degrade services is not only undermining services to our constituents, it is threatening our democracy.

A POLITICAL CONSPIRACY THEORY

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, NANCY PELOSI is dragging the entire House of Representatives back here to Washington, D.C., on taxpayer dollars for an unnecessary political vote.

Speaker PELOSI is choosing to vote on a political conspiracy theory regarding the United States Postal Service. Instead, the House should be working on commonsense COVID-19 legislation to address liability protections for States, counties, cities, schools, nonprofits, and businesses that are trying to reopen.

This bill is nothing more than an attempt to utilize the courts to shut down the 2020 election.

We need to stop wasting time on a sham political vote like H.R. 8015, because, in reality, House Democrats are the ones trying to scare the American people, blame President Trump, and, yes, undermine the 2020 election results.

In these days and weeks before the election, Democrats are clearly desperate.