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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. LEE of California) at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Jeffrey F. Kirby, Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, Indian Land, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, You have ordered all things according to Your laws of goodness and righteousness.

You bless all Your children with equal dignity and endow them with talents to pursue happiness. In Your kindness, You inspire and raise up leaders for Your people.

We ask You to bless this House of Representatives, made up of these leaders, and to bless their work during today's session. Grant them prudence and fortitude. May they seek Your divine wisdom and give You due homage in all their deliberations and decisions. May they always seek the common good, the public benefit, and true justice and peace for all.

We ask all these blessings from You, who are the Lord God and the giver of life, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. CISNEROS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CISNEROS 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 REVEREND JEFFREY F. KIRBY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and nominate today's guest, Father Jeffrey Kirby, to serve as guest chaplain for the noon prayer.

Father Kirby, pastor of Our Lady of Grace Parish in South Carolina and the adjunct professor of theology at Belmont Abbey College, is a devout follower of Jesus Christ and lives his life as a light unto others.

Father Kirby received his bachelor of arts and master's degree from Franciscan University of Steubenville before receiving his doctorate in moral theology from Holy Cross University in Rome.

His selflessness led him to enlist in the National Guard during his studies, and he even served on a relief effort for Hurricane Mitch.

In 2002, he entered seminary in Rome and was ordained a Catholic priest. He has since served parishes across South Carolina, from Clemson to Walhalla to Seneca to Columbia and now Lancaster.

Governor Nikki Haley selected him in 2016 to receive the Order of the Palmetto, our State's highest civilian honor.

In His word, and one that exemplifies Father Kirby's life, the Book of Malachi 2:7 reads: "For the lips of a priest should guard knowledge, and people should seek instruction from his mouth, for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts."

In light of his many years of ministry, it is my honor to welcome Father Kirby as the guest chaplain of the United States House of Representatives.

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.

CONGRATULATING 2020 CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

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

Mr. CISNEROS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor and congratulate 13 elementary schools in California's 39th District for their selection as 2020 California Distinguished Schools.

The 39th District elementary schools awarded this distinction include: Aca-cia, Blandford, Buena Terra, Charles G. Emery, Golden, Hidden Trails, Killian, Laguna Road, Laurel Elementary Magnet School of Innovation and Career Exploration, Mesa Robles, Robert C. Fisler, Wedgeworth, and Ybarra Academy of Arts and Technology.

Our students' success is a testament not only to their dedication but also to the tireless efforts made by educators, administrators, staff, and parents.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my honorable colleagues join me in congratulating these 13 California distinguished schools for their tremendous educational achievements.

CELEBRATING SCHOOL CHOICE

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise during this week to celebrate school choice.

Americans lose their freedom when parents aren't allowed to decide on their own where to send their children to school. A one-size-fits-all approach doesn't encourage growth for the next generation of Americans.

In March, the Supreme Court will be hearing oral arguments for the case of Espinoza v. Montana Department of Revenue. The Court's decision could have important ramifications for public funding of private and public schools.

In my district, I am proud of the work being done by Steve and Joyce Schuck, champions of the school choice movement in Colorado. Steven Woodford is also doing great work for the homeschool communities of Colorado.

These key leaders in our community are enabling students to have educational opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.

Colorado is making great strides in the school choice movement, and I am proud to represent both the community leaders who facilitate it and the talented students of this generation.

COMMEMORATING TODD PORTUNE AND NATHANIEL JONES

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

Mr. CHABOT. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to honor two iconic Cincinnati leaders who passed away over the weekend.

On Saturday, we lost longtime Hamilton County Commissioner and former Cincinnati City Councilman Todd Portune.

Todd was a true leader, willing to put aside political differences and work together on issues to benefit our community. He was also someone I considered not only a respected colleague but a friend.

Then, on Sunday, Cincinnati suffered another loss with the passing of Judge Nathaniel Jones.

As a civil rights leader, a Federal judge, and a person, Judge Jones was one of those rare people who was universally admired and respected. Having worked with Thurgood Marshall on Brown v. Board of Education, having helped South Africa overcome apartheid, and having served as general counsel for the NAACP, Judge Jones not only improved the lives of people in Cincinnati but across the country and, in fact, across the globe.

Madam Speaker, while Cincinnati will sorely miss Commissioner Portune and Judge Jones, their accomplishments will be felt by our community and across our Nation for generations to come.

SUPPORT PROTESTERS IN REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I have a question. What does Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street have in common with the republic of Georgia's oligarch Bidzina Ivanishvili? What do they have in common?

Answer: They are both puppets who trash their own home.

Vladimir Putin's puppet has attacked foreign investment in Georgia and crushed basic human rights.

A company from Texas, Frontera Resources, has been drilling in Georgia for years and years and years. They have created great jobs in America and great jobs in Georgia. They have created freedom. That was until the government took over all of their operations, all of their equipment. Now, they are drilling zero wells in Georgia.

Of course, the Napoleon of Siberia, Vladimir Putin, is happy to control Georgia's oil. His puppet, oligarch Ivanishvili, is getting rich off the backs of the Georgian people.

It is time to wake up. As this photo from Getty shows, the protesters in Georgia need our support. Join me in raising our voices for freedom in Georgia.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK 2020

(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, I am grateful to be an original cosponsor of H. Res. 814 to designate January 26 to February 1 as National School Choice Week.

As the husband of a teacher, father of four, and grandfather of eight, I appreciate the importance of school choice. We must continue to support magnet, charter, traditional, public, private, and homeschools inspired by Zan Tyler across the country.

Every year, I have the opportunity to meet with students and teachers and talk to them about their unique educational experiences and why they think school choice is important. I will be visiting schools this Friday to renew this discussion.

What we have seen is too many top-down mandates from unelected Washington bureaucrats who do not know the needs of students like their parents, teachers, and local school boards do. The quality of our children's education is too important to rely on a one-size-fits-all approach.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism with the courageous leadership of President Donald Trump.

SAY NO TO THE PRO ACT

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, as part of a productive district work period, our team met with job creators and employers who are members of the Williamsport/Lycoming Chamber of Commerce.

The topic of discussion was the so-called Protecting the Right to Organize Act, otherwise known as the PRO Act. One thing was clear from these individuals: The PRO Act is a bad bill that has too much government interference in the employee-employer relationship.

More than being bad for employers, the PRO Act is terrible for workers. Cloaked in the language of employee protection, the real result of the PRO Act is providing workers with fewer choices, fewer rights, and an inability to speak directly for themselves.

Our Nation is experiencing the greatest economy in generations with the lowest unemployment rate for all categories of Americans since I was 4 years old. Congress should not pass legislation that would slow economic growth, stifle job creation, and limit workers' free choice and privacy. Yet, that is exactly what the PRO Act would do.

If Congress really cares about jobs, the economy, and workers' rights, it should say no to the PRO Act.

EXTEND RIGHT TO LIFE TO ALL

(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, last week marked the 47th anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Our Nation's Founders enshrined in the Declaration of Independence that all humans are "endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Since that fateful Roe v. Wade decision, we have denied the first of those basic rights, the right to life, to more than 60 million unborn children.

I rise today in opposition to this atrocity, and I rise in support of the brave individuals who flooded the National Mall this past Friday to take part in the annual March for Life.

As long as abortion exists in our country, a dark cloud will hang over us, but the March for Life makes me hopeful that this cloud will not hang over us forever. I have great hope that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness will extend to all Americans born and those yet to be born.

EVIDENCE PERTINENT TO IMPEACHMENT TRIAL

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we have gone through and are going through a serious time in our country. The Senate is engaged, as was said the

other day, in one of its most important duties and responsibilities.

This weekend, a draft of the upcoming book by President Trump's former National Security Advisor, Ambassador John Bolton, was reported on by The New York Times.

In that book, Ambassador Bolton, who was the National Security Advisor and foreign policy advisor for President Donald Trump, revealed additional evidence pertinent to the impeachment trial now underway in the Senate. There is strong and direct evidence that the President linked critical military aid to Ukraine. It is reported that so many of his advisers, including Mr. Bolton, could not understand that aid being withheld to our ally.

He reveals that the President linked that critical military aid to Ukraine to the announcement of an investigation by President Zelensky, which was intended to benefit President Trump personally and politically.

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Ambassador Bolton's book further confirms this and reveals that he was in the room; not a whistleblower; not somebody relying on hearsay, in the room with the President, and heard him state clearly that the two were linked or, said in another way, that there was a quid pro quo, as was alleged in Article I of the Articles of Impeachment. They were linked and that congressionally-appropriated military aid to Ukraine would not be released until President Zelensky responded to the President's personal, political demands.

Whether you are a lawyer or not, you have watched trials on TV, or perhaps been a witness in a trial. A trial is to examine and weigh the evidence, all the relevant evidence. That is the definition of a fair trial, of a quest for justice trial, a trial in which the jurors are impartial and seeking truth; not a trial in which the jurors refuse to hear the evidence the prosecution wants to submit.

It is unheard of that a juror would say, no, I don't want to hear that evidence. The juror's duty is to hear the evidence and to seek the truth. And the witnesses raise their hand, swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; the whole truth, a key phrase in that witness' oath.

That, of course, includes Ambassador Bolton's testimony, the whole truth; what he heard directly from the President, as well as others who have firsthand knowledge of facts relevant to the truth or falsity of the allegations; in this case, abuse of power and obstruction of justice.

And, of course, so many of those witnesses have been ordered by the President not to tell the truth, not to testify, to fight subpoenas of the Congress of the United States.

A juror cannot be impartial if he or she willfully ignores evidence upon which the case might turn.