

that is to prepare them for the work-force outside of the military.

I am a proud original cosponsor of the Veterans in Effective Apprenticeships Act, which instructs apprenticeship programs to account for a participant's competencies and prior experiences, including those gained during military service, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, the best way to thank a veteran is to hire a veteran. The skills obtained during service are invaluable.

In closing, I would like to offer my sincerest gratitude one last time to the men and women who have selflessly served our country in the United States military. They have put their lives on the line for us, and we are forever indebted to them for this sacrifice.

□ 1015

CONGRESS IS THE FINAL ARBITER OF ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTE SUBMISSIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BROOKS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, this is the first in a series of House floor speeches by me on the recent Presidential election.

Some believe the Supreme Court decides who wins Presidential elections. That is wrong. While the Supreme Court has a significant judicial role in the Presidential election process, the United States Constitution and Federal law make Congress, not the Supreme Court, the judge of who wins Presidential elections.

Congress must first accept or reject State submissions of electoral college votes. Thereafter, if no candidate wins an electoral college vote majority, Congress, not the Supreme Court, votes on and elects the next President and Vice President of the United States.

The Constitution's 12th Amendment requires States to submit their electoral college votes to Congress, thereby triggering United States Code title 3, section 15, which requires that:

First, Congress shall meet January 6 following the election at 1 p.m. to receive States' electoral college vote submissions.

Second, the Senate President presides over all proceedings.

Third, each State's electoral college submissions shall be opened, presented, and acted upon in alphabetical order, beginning with the letter A.

Fourth, the Senate President shall receive and publicly announce each State's electoral college vote.

Fifth, the Senate President shall call for objections, if any. Objections must be in writing and clearly and concisely state, without argument, the objection grounds. Further, each objection must be signed by at least one Senator and one Congressman or be disallowed.

Sixth, the Senate and House shall then separate, and each body shall then decide whether to accept or reject elec-

toral college votes that have been properly objected to.

Finally, if the House and Senate both vote to reject a State's electoral college vote submission, those electoral college votes shall not be counted in the election of the President and Vice President.

United States Code title 3, section 17, adds that the Senate and House votes to accept or reject electoral college votes must occur immediately after no more than 2 hours of floor debate.

This process has been used in the past to challenge States' electoral college votes.

For example, in 2005, Democrat Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones and Democrat Senator Barbara Boxer jointly objected to acceptance of Ohio's electoral college votes for Republican President George Bush after Ohio election officials certified that George Bush won Ohio by almost 120,000 votes.

Similarly, in 2017, numerous Democrat Congressmen objected to all the electoral college votes for Republican Presidential candidate Donald J. Trump from the States of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. These objections failed for lack of a Senate cosponsor.

In sum, the United States Constitution and Federal law mandate that, on January 6, 2021, Congress must decide whether to accept or reject States' submissions of electoral college votes for President.

If a Congressman and Senator jointly object, then the full House and full Senate must each vote on whether to accept or reject a State's electoral college vote submission. That vote by Congress is final, determinative, and nonreviewable. If a State's electoral college votes are rejected, then those electoral college votes are excluded from candidate totals.

My second speech in this series covers what happens if, because of rejected electoral college votes, neither candidate has the majority of electoral college votes needed to be elected President of the United States.

SOUTH CAROLINIANS APPRECIATE PRESIDENT TRUMP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, President Donald Trump was extraordinarily successful in South Carolina, overcoming the biased fake news to have a tremendous victory.

The voters appreciated record job growth for African Americans, Hispanics, and Asian Americans, along with record job growth for women and youth, along with a restored military with peace through strength, protecting our allies like Israel, as he stood for law enforcement to protect American families.

There is true love and affection for Donald Trump in South Carolina.

Democrats wasted the largest onslaught ever of cash, with over \$200 million from out-of-State, to pathetically spend money to the point where their votes were \$120 per vote to lose.

Democrats unintentionally exposed their socialist agenda of everything free for everybody, resulting in citizens with no freedom, but the political and media elites have all the power.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was correct that socialism will work until it has run out of spending other people's money, always failing.

In South Carolina, female Republicans were especially targeted by the failing Democrats. South Carolina has elected the first female Republican Congresswoman ever, Congresswoman-elect Nancy Mace. The South Carolina State Senate has elected, with Penny Gustafson of Camden, the first Republican ever to be elected to the State Senate from Kershaw County, joining Senators Katrina Shealy of Lexington and Sandy Senn of Charleston.

Despite Democrat dirty tricks, a smeared Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM swept to victory, with Republican gains at all levels—Federal, State, and local—with the largest number of Republican elected officials in 140 years.

State Party Chairman Drew McKissick and Executive Director Hope Walker have been dynamic leaders for successfully leading the victory party with Governor Henry McMaster, Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, and Attorney General Alan Wilson.

I am humbled to have lived the modern Republican revolution, attending the swearing-in of State Representative Charlie Boineau in August 1961 as the first elected Republican in the 20th century, with State Representative Floyd Spence being the first to courageously switch parties in 1962, leading today to super Republican majorities with all statewide officials now Republicans, along with eight out of nine Federal legislators being Republicans.

I credit my mother, Wray Wilson, for my political involvement, as she was a pioneering activist in South Carolina for President Dwight Eisenhower in 1952.

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

Our sympathy for the family of the visionary Midlands business leader Arthur Brown, Jr.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Adoption Month along with National Adoption Day on November 21.

This recognition aims to increase awareness for the 122,000 foster children in America awaiting adoption,

and to celebrate the children and families brought together through the adoption process.

Mr. Speaker, I honor the numerous organizations and individuals throughout the First Congressional District that offer vital assistance to the children in the foster care system. Their efforts to help adopted children and provide resources for young adults aging out of the system go a long way in ensuring the safety and well-being of this vulnerable population. Their tireless efforts and compassion for others form the backbone of our child welfare system.

I am honored to join with my colleagues in celebration of National Adoption Month and to thank all the generous organizations and individuals in the First Congressional District of Kentucky for their dedication to such a noble cause.

RECOGNIZING TODD COUNTY'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, as the Congressman for Kentucky's First Congressional District, I am proud to represent 35 counties and numerous communities with their own unique identities.

A very special county and city in my district are celebrating their 200th anniversary this year. Todd County is a county I represent on the Kentucky-Tennessee State line that is full of small towns and rich traditions.

Todd County, along with the city of Elkton, have been a special part of western Kentucky for two centuries now.

Whether you reside in Elkton, Guthrie, or Trenton, you call home a beautiful county full of wonderful people. With a strong farming heritage, agriculture continues to play a significant role in the local economy.

2020 is not the ideal year to celebrate the two-century milestone, but while this year has brought significant change to our society, one thing has not changed: Todd County, Elkton, and other rural communities will continue to provide a strong voice for small-town values in our Nation.

I am proud to represent the good people of Todd County and Elkton in Congress, and I look forward to seeing even more prosperous years to come.

END PROXY VOTING

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, under Speaker PELOSI's leadership, this body has experienced a series of new lows.

One of these failures in leadership was encouraging the abdication of our duty as lawmakers amid a national crisis. The majority party upended centuries of precedent by allowing proxy voting, and now has another terrible idea: vote by text.

As many essential American workers have continued working every day, this approach mistakenly signals that Congress is above the American people.

The coronavirus is a serious crisis and one that requires Congress to show up in person to address our Nation's challenges. I am proud to have shown

up here at the Capitol alongside my Republican colleagues throughout 2020 to cast votes.

Members of this body should not be able to shield themselves from scrutiny by voting on issues without being fully present.

As we close out the year and move into 2021, it is imperative that all Americans get the full representation they deserve in Congress, with their elected officials showing up for work.

HOLD HEARINGS ON ELECTION INTEGRITY

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, today, JIM JORDAN, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, and myself are sending a letter to Chairman NADLER and Chairwoman MALONEY, the chairs of our respective committees, requesting a hearing on the election process, the integrity of the election process.

Just last night, we got a report that over 2,000 ballots had just been found in Georgia. Ironically, despite the fact that all these absentee ballots have been breaking overwhelmingly for the Democrats and for Joe Biden in the Presidential race, this particular batch of ballots broke 800 votes in favor of Donald Trump.

Now, I have been hesitant to criticize the election process without facts. We have facts here.

It is a fact that there has been a history of problems with Dominion and different election software programs that have been used in several of the States that are in question in this Presidential election.

We have had all of these hearings in the Judiciary Committee and all of these hearings in the Oversight and Reform Committee on Russia collusion that never proved anything, but we have a Presidential election that every American is watching. Why can't we have hearings on that?

Mr. Speaker, we are here for the next 2 weeks. I strongly encourage the Judiciary and Oversight and Reform Committees to hold a hearing on our election integrity.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 29 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CORREA) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Loving and gracious Lord of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In this single week after a long campaign season and before breaking once again for Thanksgiving, bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose on the issues facing them.

We ask Your blessing as well on those newly elected who will be joining this assembly for the 117th Congress. May their transition into office be smooth and marked by the civility of democratic change of government, which is the rightful pride of the United States of America.

Lord, our Nation continues to be besieged by the plague of the coronavirus. Send Your spirit of peace, that our people might be brought together to address the dangers of this disease as we approach seasons of family and community celebration. Bless as well those who continue to labor to bring health and relief to those who are ill.

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 North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

CALLING FOR COVID-19 AID

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, Michigan, like many States, continues to see a skyrocketing number of COVID-19 cases. In my own family, we have cases, serious cases, of this terrible virus.

This pandemic is far, far from over. It is actually getting worse, and Congress has to do its job.

Families, seniors, small businesses, they need our support right now. I have heard from thousands of constituents who are still struggling to pay their bills, to put food on the table, to pay rent, and to protect themselves.

This Congress needs to pass emergency relief now. It has been 6 months