

ballots must be signed, dated, and included in a secrecy envelope, and that ballots that are missing required information and/or signatures should be disqualified or, at a minimum, authenticated.

Just hours before polls opened, the secretary of state of Pennsylvania issued inconsistent and contradictory guidance, giving Pennsylvania counties the authority to decide whether to reject ballots that contained discrepancies or take additional measures to correct them. This happened. This is a highly irregular thing to do.

As a result, Philadelphia, Montgomery, Allegheny, and Bucks County, four of the largest counties in Pennsylvania, allowed literally thousands and thousands of ballots to be fixed or cured, a measure not pursued by most other counties and which violated State election law.

Third, Republican poll watchers in Philadelphia were kept at an unreasonable distance to observe the pre-canvassing and canvassing of ballots. Even after a court ruling allowed poll watchers closer access, Philadelphia officials actually appealed the order to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Why would local election officials make the process blatantly more restrictive to poll watchers, some of whom resorted to using binoculars to do their jobs?

This, too, actually happened. An estimated 687,000 ballots were counted during this time of no lawfully required poll watchers. Such actions, Mr. Speaker, raise very legitimate doubts surrounding transparency and accountability of Presidential election.

Further adding to the frustration and distrust felt by millions in Pennsylvania, the media projected the outcome while such valid disputes were outstanding before due process took place and well before judicial rulings were made.

In Pennsylvania, the cases before the courts could involve tens of thousands of ballots, of votes, an amount, if deemed unlawful, would mandate an automatic recount. In a close election, counting all legal votes takes time, yet it is absolutely essential to assure to a candidate, but more so to the voters, that the vote count be honest, lawful, and fair.

The implications for our country are significant now and beyond 2020. Along with a fair election of the United States of America President, what is at stake here is the integrity of our election process and the faith the American people have in it.

CONGRATULATING JIMMY RAY
FOR BEING VETERAN OF THE
YEAR

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jimmy Ray of Chatham County for being rec-

ognized as Veteran of the Year by the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Georgia's First Congressional District is home to many of our Nation's veterans, so being recognized as Veteran of the Year is an incredible honor. With this title, Jimmy will represent the Veterans Council at various events throughout the year.

Jimmy is a past commander of the American Legion, Chatham Post 36, which is an organization dedicated to advocating for patriotism across the United States. Among his many lifetime achievements, he helped spearhead the fundraising and construction of the World War II Memorial on River Street in Savannah.

He has also been an active member of the Savannah St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 35 years, and was even the 2013 parade grand marshal.

I can't thank Jimmy enough for his outstanding service to our Nation throughout his life, and I want to congratulate him again on this wonderful accomplishment.

CONGRATULATING SCDATACOM, LLC FOR RECEIVING PLATINUM AWARD FROM HIRE VETS MEDALLION PROGRAM

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate scDataCom, LLC, for being selected as an awardee of the HIRE Vets Medallion Program.

The program was established by the Honoring Investments in Recruiting and Employing American Military Veterans Act of 2017, or the HIRE Vets Act.

The HIRE Vets Medallion Program is the only Federal program that recognizes and honors job creators for their investments in recruiting, employing, and retaining our Nation's veterans. I am proud to say scDataCom, LLC, which is based out of Savannah, Georgia, achieved this small platinum award.

In order to qualify for this particular award, at least 10 percent of the employees must be veterans. ScDataCom is a nationally recognized small business specializing in the design, installation, and service of physical and electronic security systems for both private and public sector clients.

It was founded by Alaina and Kathleen, a successful mother-daughter duo. I want to congratulate Alaina and Kathleen again for this wonderful accomplishment. I am thankful for the work they do to serve their community and veterans, and I wish them the best.

CONGRATULATING CAMDEN COUNTY FOR RECEIVING CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Camden County in Georgia's First Congressional District for being awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

Camden County was recognized for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, or CAFR, for the fiscal year which ended June 30, 2019.

The CAFR is judged by an impartial panel, and the high standards of the program include demonstrating a constructive spirit of full disclosure. In doing this, Camden County clearly communicated its financial story.

This is a great honor because the certificate of achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of government accounting and financial reporting.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Camden County and its management for this significant accomplishment, and I express my gratitude for the work that they do for our community.

□ 1045

CONGRATULATING BRIAN A. MIXON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brian Mixon on his retirement after 4 years of Active Duty and 32 years of civilian service with the Department of the Army.

Brian served honorably as an air traffic and airspace officer and was recognized for his work when he was awarded the Air Traffic Control Manager of the Year Award by the Air Traffic Control Association in 2019. The national award is formally known as the General E.R. Quesada Memorial Award, and it is a medallion award presented to an individual for outstanding achievement and contribution during the previous year as an air traffic control manager.

This is not the first time Brian has been recognized for his exceptional work. He also earned two other national awards, among many others.

Hunter Army Airfield in Georgia's First Congressional District is one of the premier power projection platforms in the Army, which is utilized to deploy thousands of soldiers and essential equipment. Brian's contributions have been essential to the readiness capabilities of the units that utilized Hunter Army Airfield.

Mr. Speaker, I can't thank Brian enough for his many years of steadfast dedication in serving our great Nation, and I wish him the best as he begins his retirement.

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 46 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House with focus and purpose as they gather these few days before Thanksgiving. May their efforts give true cause for Americans to gather to give thanks.

In our world, there are many places where peace is lacking and cause for thanksgiving rare. Send Your spirit of peace upon our world. Help us all see in those we view as enemies our brothers and sisters.

As infections continue to spread, and hospitals nationwide are pressed to their limits, inspire all leaders to step forward in a unified response, protect and empower those who care for the sick, and bring healing to all who suffer during this plague.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HARDER of California 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 now take this opportunity to make an announcement concerning floor practice during the coronavirus pandemic.

First, the Chair wishes to underscore the importance of safe practices during votes. As the Chair stated on July 29, 2020, under clause 2 of rule I, the Chair is required to preserve order and decorum in the Chamber. This includes the responsibility to ensure the protection of Member and staff health and safety during proceedings.

To that end, based upon health and safety guidance from the attending physician and the Sergeant at Arms, the Chair would advise that all Members should leave the Chamber promptly after casting their votes. Furthermore, Members should avoid congregating in the rooms leading to the Chamber, including the Speaker's lobby.

As a reminder, the Chair will continue the recent practice of providing small groups of Members with a minimum of 5 minutes within which to cast their votes. Members are encouraged to vote with their previously assigned group. After voting, Members must clear the Chamber to allow the

next group a safe and sufficient opportunity to vote.

It is essential for the health and safety of Members, staff, and the U.S. Capitol Police to consistently practice social distancing and to ensure that a safe capacity be maintained in the Chamber at all times. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to enforce this policy.

Second, the Chair wishes to remind Members that the announcement of July 29, 2020, regarding the wearing of masks in the Hall of the House remains in effect. Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask. Masks will be available at the entry points for any Member who forgets to bring one.

To reiterate, the Chair views the failure to wear masks as a serious breach of decorum.

I repeat, Members and staff will not be permitted to enter the Hall of the House without wearing a mask.

The Chair appreciates the attention of all Members and staff to these principles.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON?

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask: What the hell is happening in Washington?

I am not one to spend my time throwing bombs on this floor, but during this single minute, another American will die from COVID, and even more people are slipping into poverty because this town can't get its act together.

I have had enough.

Millions of people can't get to work. They can't put food on the table. They are missing rent or mortgage payments.

Since we passed the CARES Act, which was a strong step forward, the best this town can do is finger-pointing.

It is disgusting.

Everyone believes we are incapable of doing our jobs, and right now, we are proving them right.

The reality is, there is plenty of blame to go around, but Americans need another stimulus check. They needed it months ago.

We need expanded unemployment back, especially now that cases are exploding at a higher rate than at any other point during this pandemic.

It is time to grow up. It is time to do what we are paid for. It is time to do our jobs.

PASS SOS ACT TO HELP LIVE MUSIC VENUES SURVIVE PANDEMIC SHUTDOWNS

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

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge passage of the Save Our Cities and Stages Act, better known as the Save Our Stages Act, as a stand-alone bill so that independent live music venues can survive and recover from COVID-19.

During this pandemic, these venues have been hardest hit, as they were the first to close and will be among the last to reopen due to safety restrictions and government mandates.

They generate billions of dollars in our national economy and create thousands of jobs every year. They are a cultural staple in central Texas and the 25th District, unlike any other place in our Nation.

Over the last several months, I have had the privilege of working with owners and managers of dozens of venues like Hudson's On Mercer Street in Dripping Springs, Songbird Live in Cleburne, and The Broken Spoke in Austin to highlight the urgency of passing this legislation.

It is crucial we deliver, not only for their livelihoods, but for the artists who start out on their stages and the future generations inspired by their work. Every day we waste is detrimental to this industry.

Mr. Speaker, I call on Speaker PELOSI to bring the Save Our Stages Act to the House floor for a vote.

In God we trust.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT WORK

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

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud of American democracy, and I want to talk about American democracy.

In this election, record numbers of voters turned out to cast their ballots, with very few voting irregularities.

A record number of young people turned out to cast their ballots and express their voice by voting.

We saw civil servants and folks tabulating those ballots. We saw American democracy at work, and we ought to be proud of that.

On January 20, we will welcome President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS in a peaceful transfer of power.

God bless the United States, and God bless our democracy.

CONGRATULATING DONNA GIVENS UPON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Donna Givens