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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 7, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In the waning days of this 116th Congress, we ask Your blessing upon the Members of this people's House and, most especially, upon leadership. It is on their shoulders the most important negotiations of this Congress have been placed.

The coronavirus continues to ravage communities throughout the Nation. Bless the Members here with the good will and courage to work through differences to find assistance for so many Americans in dire need at this time. Help and empower them also as they work toward a total funding of our government into a stronger and more hopeful future.

Bless, as well, those who labor among our sick. Keep them safe and bless their families for their generosity during these times.

May all that is done 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 California (Mr. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GARCIA 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 PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from California (Mr. COOK), the whole number of the House is 430.

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.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GEORGE YUREK

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, as we mark today, the 79th year since Pearl Harbor, I want to tell you about my friend, George Yurek, who, when he got into the Army in 1942, volunteered for bomb disposal. He went to Corregidor, "The Rock" of the Philippines.

His unit was in the first amphibious wave on the island. There were so many landmines there that, with U.S.

troops amassing for landing, they had very little time. They had to defuse the landmines by hand, and they called for volunteers.

Sergeant George Yurek of West Wyoming, Pennsylvania, volunteered to defuse landmines by hand, and he defused hundreds of them. It is impossible to count how many American troops he saved by his actions.

For his heroism in the Pacific, George Yurek was awarded a total of four Bronze Stars for valor.

Last week, at the age of 98, George passed away, after mentoring countless young people in all the Wyoming Valley.

George and his late wife, Ellie, were married for 67 years. They leave three children, Greg, George, and Ann, and seven grandchildren.

May God rest his soul.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CHERI FLEMING

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

Mr. GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and to honor the life of someone very special to my hometown of Santa Clarita.

Ms. Cheri Fleming, a radiant mom, a beautiful wife, a savvy businesswoman, and an avid philanthropist, passed away on November 16.

Cheri was an icon in the Santa Clarita Valley. She was the brilliant and shining essence of everything that is great about my hometown. She led with grace. She succeeded in business with humility. She supported charities with endless generosity. She loved her friends and family intensely, always giving one of the most warm hugs you can imagine.

As a philanthropist, Cheri was one of the primary reasons why so many nonprofit organizations in our district are

□ 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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thriving and providing services and hope to countless thousands.

Today, she is with God, but she will always remain in our hearts, Mr. Speaker.

My deepest condolences go out to her family and especially her husband, Don, who is also one of the greatest Americans I have ever known.

May God bless the Cheri Fleming family, and may God bless Santa Clarita in the wake of her loss.

CBO SCORE OF THE MORE ACT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it was sad that my Republican colleagues were unable to understand why we voted to reform our failed prohibition of cannabis. They don't care about honoring the will of the people and they are unable to grasp the enormity of the racial injustice and damage by selective enforcement against young Black and Brown Americans.

But the CBO score may have some other reasons for them. It shows that the MORE Act would reduce 73,000 person-years of prison time, saving \$1 billion. It would increase revenues by \$13.7 billion. It would provide \$3 billion for job training and legal aid to people harmed by the war on drugs.

While doing all of this, it would reduce the Federal deficit by \$7.344 billion.

Even if you don't care about reducing the damage to Black and Brown Americans or honoring the will of the people, the economics make it clear: Once again, the people are right, and the policy deserves strong congressional support.

HONORING BILL RANEY

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

Mr. MCKINLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bill Raney as he retires from the West Virginia Coal Association.

Nearly 40 years ago, in the West Virginia Legislature, Bill and I began working together, advocating on behalf of the coal industry and the families who depend on it. Today, we continue to work together, fighting for those same families, but now with a national perspective.

He has led West Virginia through the best and the worst of times for coal. Bill is an icon in the industry, and his legacy is filled with remarkable accomplishments. He is a colonel in the West Virginia Reserves, has chaired many statewide organizations, and has been nationally recognized for his advocacy of coal.

Bill Raney exemplifies the true Mountaineer spirit, serving others to make West Virginia a better place.

It has been an honor to work with Bill, and I wish him and his wife, Pam, a well-deserved retirement.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS OF GEORGIA'S FIFTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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

Mr. HALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw the Chamber's attention to critical needs for Georgia's Fifth Congressional District.

I know it has been a familiar trope to suggest that this week is going to be the new infrastructure week. The administration has announced several different infrastructure weeks, in fact. But it is not just a talking point in my district. In my district, there are several projects that require the attention of this Chamber.

They include the Clayton commuter rail, Campbellton Road BRT and rail extension, Bankhead rail to Indian Creek extension, and Clifton Corridor transportation plan.

Tackling these projects accomplishes many ends. It is an economic revitalization project, as it connects vital American companies like Microsoft to greater Atlanta. It is an environmental imperative, as getting folks out of cars and onto mass transit decreases CO₂ levels. It is a jobs imperative, as it creates many well-paying jobs. It is a racial justice imperative, as these projects will service communities historically neglected.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARTIN NE SMITH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a very special person, Mr. Martin Ne Smith.

Martin was a natural-born leader who dedicated his life to serving others, including serving his country in the National Guard.

Following his graduation from Georgia Southern University, he began his career in the automobile industry and became the youngest dealer, at 24 years old, when he purchased a Chevrolet dealership in Claxton, Georgia.

His kindness and selflessness extended to every area of his life, including his business ventures. For example, in the early 1990s, he revolutionized the car business with the "No Hassle Buying" concept because he wanted every customer to be honored and treated with respect. No hassle buying means customers get the best deal right away, without the need to negotiate.

His dedication to the automobile industry earned him the highest honor an automobile dealer can achieve: the Time Magazine Quality Dealer Award.

This award recognizes car dealers who exhibit exceptional performance in their dealerships and perform distinguished community service.

Martin was a wonderful philanthropist within his community and beyond, and he led by example throughout his life.

He was also known as a man of integrity who kept his word in all he did, and he never met a stranger.

I was deeply saddened to hear of the loss of such an incredible person. My prayers go out to his family, friends, and community during this most difficult time.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

REAFFIRMING STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN UNITED STATES AND MONGOLIA

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1100) reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Mongolia and observing the 30th anniversary of democracy in Mongolia, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1100

Whereas the United States and Mongolia established diplomatic relations in January 1987, and since that time the relationship has grown stronger based on shared strategic interests, security cooperation, democratic values, good governance, and respect for human rights;

Whereas, since its peaceful democratic revolution in 1989, Mongolia has charted, through a series of initiatives, a successful path to multiparty democracy and a free market economy;

Whereas, in 1990, the Government of Mongolia declared an end to a one-party, authoritarian, political system and adopted democratic and free market reforms;

Whereas, in 1992, Mongolia adopted a constitution establishing a parliamentary democracy, becoming the first country in Asia to transition from communism to democracy;

Whereas, in 1999, the Government of Mongolia invited the Peace Corps to establish its program in the country and has since hosted 1,437 volunteers in English and health education;

Whereas Mongolia has shown its commitment to a "third neighbor" relationship with the United States by sending troops to support United States operations in Iraq from 2003 through 2008 and Afghanistan since 2009, and Mongolia has a strong record of troop contributions to international peacekeeping missions;

Whereas successive Mongolian governments have taken notable steps to strengthen civil society, battle corruption, and spur economic development;