

It is time to end this charade.
It is time to stop providing aid and comfort to an insurrection.
It is time to stop lying to the American people.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As we near the end of a long and difficult year, signs of hope begin to emerge. The long and difficult work of compromise and problem-solving has been encouraging. Continue to inspire the men and women of Congress to work together to fashion bills to fund the government and offer assistance to those who find themselves on the edge of economic disaster.

Bless as well those who, in great hope, deliver vaccines to the men and women who have been on the front line of the battle against the plague of COVID-19. May their work continue in good and improving health. Comfort those who have suffered the loss of loved ones during this difficult year.

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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South 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.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF AMERICANS WHO HAVE PASSED AWAY FROM THE COVID-19 VIRUS

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as

Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to rise for a moment of silence in remembrance of more than 300,000 Americans who have passed away from the COVID-19 virus.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DICK HINCH, SPEAKER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember the life and legacy of State Representative Dick Hinch, the speaker of the New Hampshire House. I was deeply saddened last week when I learned of the sudden passing of Speaker Hinch. He was yet another American we have lost due to COVID-19.

Dick was a dedicated elected official for the people of Merrimack, the town he represented at the State house for six terms. Just a week before his passing on December 2, Dick was sworn in as the new speaker of the New Hampshire House, a role he considered to be the honor of his life.

I saw him on election day, when he warmly greeted me at his polling place just like everyone else coming to vote. It didn't matter that I was a Democrat and he was a Republican. He knew that public service was a higher calling, and he treated everyone with the utmost respect.

Dick was a happy warrior and embodied the spirit of New Hampshire's citizen legislature. We are better off because of his decades of work on behalf of the people of Merrimack and New Hampshire.

My thoughts are with his wife, Pat, and their children, as well as his family, friends, and colleagues, during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

REMEMBERING PATROLMAN TYLER HERNDON

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

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Patrolman Tyler Herndon of Kings Mountain, North Carolina, who passed away on December 11 in the line of duty.

He was a dedicated public servant, and many who knew him knew that he loved his job and his community immensely.

To his father, Mark; mother, Debbie; sister, Lindsey; and girlfriend, Holly, Tyler was someone who always put a smile on people's faces.

Tyler always wanted to be in law enforcement. After he received his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from

UNC-Charlotte, he went on to pursue his dream.

May God bless Tyler's family and the many brave men and women serving with the Mount Holly Police Department.

WE MUST WORK TOGETHER

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

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to exhort all of us in this Chamber to work together.

I know there are those of us in this Chamber for whom the spending of one Federal dollar is a physically painful event, but now is not the time to be deficit hawks. Now is the time for us to come together.

The United States of America is more than the sum of its parts. In times of great danger to our Nation, we come together, and the Federal Government leads the way. We did it when we defeated fascism in Europe and Asia. We did it when we rebuilt Europe and Asia to become great allies and peaceful and productive partners.

We can do it again. We have a terrible enemy right now in the COVID virus. It is wrecking our economy, and it is killing our people. We have lost more than 300,000 people, more than our combat losses in World War II.

Let's work together for robust COVID relief for our economy. Let's get it done, Mr. Speaker.

CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT TRUMP ON VACCINE SUCCESS

(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. Mr. Speaker, The Washington Times editorial board is appreciated for publishing "Joy, and Vaccines to the World," where they praised President Donald Trump for his efforts to bring a vaccine to the United States faster than any other vaccine in history.

The article is explaining:

The lifesaving COVID-19 vaccine that President Trump promised to deliver has arrived in record time. Hallelujah.

On Friday, the Food and Drug Administration concluded its review of the front-running vaccine developed and gave a green light for distribution. Initial shipments are expected to reach all 636 locations across the 50 States by today.

"Promises made, promises kept," Mr. Trump likes to say. That is the can-do spirit that makes America special. Just in time for Christmas, the fruits of Operation Warp Speed are starting to bring joy to the world.

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

Our family's sympathy for the death of former DNC Chairman Don Fowler.

SURVIVAL CHECKS FOR MIXED-STATUS FAMILIES

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, we are close to finalizing a relief package, but I ask my colleagues: Relief for whom?

A relief package without survival checks is not a relief package at all, nor is a relief package that leaves out millions of immigrants and their families. Any deal that we strike must include survival checks to families and immigrants, and mixed-status families must be included.

Earlier this year, countless families that I represent were denied stimulus checks, including U.S. citizens whose spouses are immigrants. We even excluded children who may have an immigrant parent.

How in the world did we exclude U.S. citizen children?

In this season of sacred holidays, I implore all of us to be compassionate and not punish kids for their parents' status. Families are struggling to put food on their tables and keep roofs over their heads.

Circumstances are dire. We need to put money directly into working families' pockets. I urge my colleagues that any relief package must include survival checks for everyone, including immigrant children.

HONORING THOSE WHO HONOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. McCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Johnny Isakson and DAVID P. ROE, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020, a bipartisan legislative package that includes two bills that I have proudly introduced this Congress, the VET TEC Expansion Act and the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act of 2020.

Since coming to Congress in 2007, one of my most important priorities in this Chamber has been to protect and improve the benefits that our Nation's veterans have earned and deserve. I introduced the VET TEC Expansion Act and the Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act earlier this Congress in response to comments and feedback I received from veterans and veterans organizations throughout my district and across the country.

Both pieces of legislation seek to build upon existing veterans benefits programs, including the VET TEC pilot program and the HUD-VA Supportive Housing Program, by expanding and streamlining them for veterans and veterans service providers who utilize them.

The VET TEC Expansion Act will continue to ensure that our heroes can enhance skills they developed in the

military when returning to private life by providing access to nontraditional and technology-oriented courses through the VET TEC pilot program. This bill would expand VET TEC to include part-time courses and permit additional course providers into the VET TEC pilot program.

I am also pleased that H.R. 7105, like the initial House-passed version of this bill, would increase the VET TEC funding authorization by \$30 million per year through 2023 to help the VA meet demand for this popular program with our veterans.

In addition, no veteran in my district or anywhere in the country should be homeless due to unnecessary VA staffing vacancies. The Reducing Veteran Homelessness Act would require that the VA contract out any consistently vacant HUD-VA Supportive Housing case management positions to community experts so that unused housing vouchers can be matched with homeless veterans who need them the most.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank Dr. ROE for his unwavering commitment to our Nation's veterans throughout his time in this Congress, specifically as chairman and ranking member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee over the course of the past 4 years and for his own personal service to the United States Army, serving in Korea.

His strong leadership on behalf of our fellow veterans has been unwavering since he came to Congress, and his tenacity, knowledge, and friendship will be missed in this Chamber after he retires from Congress.

On behalf of a very grateful Nation, we thank Dr. ROE for his servant's heart, for putting the veterans first, and for improving the quality of the care for them.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bipartisan bill and thanking Congressman ROE for his service.

HOPE AND DESPAIR IN CENTRAL FLORIDA

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

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, there is a mix of hope and despair in central Florida.

This week, the first vaccines arrived to help protect our healthcare professionals. But unemployment remains around 10 percent; food banks lay bare; many are behind on rent; and coronavirus cases continue to rise.

The message is clear in both Florida and across our Nation: Americans need help.

It is time for this Congress to come together and pass meaningful coronavirus emergency relief to defeat the virus; to help small businesses and the unemployed; and to ensure food, housing, and direct stimulus checks for our constituents.

The solution is within our grasp. We just need to come together this week to get the job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues: Don't be an Ebenezer Scrooge. Embrace the Christmas spirit. Join me and vote "yes."

RECOGNIZING MIKE VUCKOVICH

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give a special shout-out to Mike Vuckovich, superintendent of the Indiana Area School District.

Mike was recently recognized as one of America's Superintendents to Watch for 2020. He was one of only 24 recipients to receive this recognition and the only Pennsylvanian.

Mike has been on the job just 2 years but recently was recognized by the National School Public Relations Association as a 2020 Superintendent to Watch. The organization selects superintendents from across the country who "demonstrate dynamic, fast-paced leadership with strong communication at its core."

This is exactly what Mike has done with his time at Indiana Area School District.

Mike has been a champion for digital technology and online communication throughout the district, investments that have clearly come in handy in the age of coronavirus. The district's new website and social media accounts have been a useful tool to keep parents, teachers, and students on the same page during what has undoubtedly been a hectic and stressful school year.

I thank Mike for his drive, dedication, and initiative, and I am pleased to have a leader like Mike in Indiana County.

□ 1415

EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY OF SANDY HOOK ELEMENTARY SHOOTING

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

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 26 beautiful lives that were lost on December 14, 2012, at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, 8 years ago, 20 innocent children and six selfless educators were murdered in what should have been the safest places in their community: their school.

Today, I ask that we pause, reflect, remember, and recommit ourselves to working to ensure that this never happens again.

For many residents of Newtown, Connecticut, 8 years feels like yesterday. Time has stood still for so many families as they attempt to rebuild their