

I want to take a moment to thank Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey for their service and sacrifice to our community. We honor their legacy by continuing to say their names and remember their sacrifice and love for our hometown.

I pledge to always have our brothers and sisters in uniform's six.

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 16 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 Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

God our shepherd, You have entrusted us with the responsibility to tend Your sheep, to feed them and watch over them. May we be worthy of this mantle of awesome responsibility and live wholeheartedly into this task. May nothing we do be done simply out of obligation. But having received Your tender mercies in our own lives, may we be eager to serve You and those whom You have commended to our care.

And if we lose sight of Your claim on our lives and waver in our duties, call us to examine the multitude of instances where You have showered Your grace upon us.

How then can we help but be so transformed that we would want nothing else but to give of ourselves from the depths of our souls?

May we then be examples of what it means to serve You. May we live lives of kindness and humility, not lifting ourselves up, but waiting with patience for the moment when, in the fullness of time, You reveal the purpose for all our efforts and energies, in Your gracious plan.

In the meantime, we cast ourselves—our anxieties, our best intentions, and our most fervent hopes on You—in sure and certain hope of Your steadfast love for us.

It is in the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TITUS 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 entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

(Mrs. MCCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise because of the double standards in this Chamber. Once again, this weekend we saw a Member of the majority openly call for more confrontation in a Minneapolis suburb. That very night there was a drive-by shooting in that community where police and National Guardsmen were targeted.

If this were reversed, if this were said by a Republican, you know, Madam Speaker, that the majority in this Chamber would move to strip that Representative of their committees and possibly move to expel them from Congress.

We have actually seen this before.

If what President Trump said on January 6 was inciting a riot, then what do the words "get more confrontational" mean?

Are those not the words someone would use if they wanted to incite more violence or insurrection?

If the majority cares about this institution, and if the majority cares about our Nation, then they need to get their own house in order and tamp down this vile rhetoric.

RECOGNIZING LORRIE FORD MERKER

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorrie Ford Merker for all the work she has done to improve the lives of Georgia's blueberry farmers.

Lorrie has made outstanding contributions to the blueberry industry for three decades. Born and raised in southeastern Michigan, Lorrie graduated from Michigan State University and has spent her entire adult life improving the agriculture sector.

For the past 32 years Lorrie has worked with the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association which represents 250 growers in eight States and British

Columbia. She has also been involved in advocacy at the State and national levels to promote an understanding of the labor and environmental challenges facing farmers.

Throughout her career she has accumulated a long list of awards and accomplishments, including the North American Blueberry Council's Alex Wetherbee Award, for her outstanding contributions to the promotion and marketing of blueberries.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Lorrie for all the work she has done for Georgia's blueberry growers and for growers across the country.

HONORING BERNELL TRAMMELL

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the great Bernell Trammell of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who owned eXpressions Journal Publications, which was located on 915 East Wright Street.

Bernell Trammell was an avid reader and a very religious man who liked people. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Milwaukee.

Last July 23, he was shot dead carrying a sign for Donald Trump.

I would like to ask the city of Milwaukee to dial up the investigation for the murder of Bernell Trammell. I believe it is a shame in Milwaukee that when someone—one of few people—stands up and announces by a sign that he is voting for Donald Trump that he would be shot dead.

He was an iconoclast, he was a very spiritual man delving in different religions, and he was all over the political spectrum as far as the people he endorsed. But while he was carrying a Donald Trump sign, he was shot down last July 23.

I beg the city of Milwaukee to do something about this horrible crime.

MARIJUANA BANKING BILL

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1996, the marijuana banking bill. This legislation is about legitimizing and bankrolling the marijuana industry and making legalization inevitable.

It is sad that the House is voting on this bill during a time when our country is seeing increases in addiction, depression, and suicide. Rather than helping victims of despair, we are enhancing the financial benefits for those peddling and profiting off the sale of marijuana.

We are not even directly debating our drug laws. No. We are cowardly debating if we should reward States for undermining the rule of law.

Despite what the swamp says, we don't need recreational marijuana. As

recently as 2016, the DEA determined that marijuana should remain a schedule I substance.

I don't care what the lobbyists or talking heads for the marijuana industry like John Boehner say, I care about keeping dangerous substances away from our children and standing for the values I was elected to fight for.

The last thing our country needs is our help facilitating the profitability of addictive, behavior-altering, recreational drug use.

I oppose the bill, and I urge every Member to do the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 16, 2021:

S. 164, to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes;

S. 415, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity;

S. 578, to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 490) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 490

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2021" or the "DHS MORALE Act".

SEC. 2. CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 704 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ", including with respect to leader development and employee engagement," after "policies";

(ii) by striking "and in line" and inserting "in line"; and

(iii) by inserting "and informed by best practices within the Federal government and the private sector," after "priorities,";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "develop performance measures to provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating" and inserting "use performance measures to evaluate, on an ongoing basis,";

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting "that, to the extent practicable, are informed by employee feedback" after "policies";

(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting "including leader development and employee engagement programs," before "in coordination";

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "that is informed by an assessment, carried out by the Chief Human Capital Officer, of the learning and developmental needs of employees in supervisory and non-supervisory roles across the Department and appropriate workforce planning initiatives";

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively; and

(G) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraphs:

"(9) maintain a catalogue of available employee development opportunities, including the Homeland Security Rotation Program pursuant to section 844, departmental leadership development programs, interagency development programs, and other rotational programs;

"(10) ensure that employee discipline and adverse action programs comply with the requirements of all pertinent laws, rules, regulations, and Federal guidance, and ensure due process for employees;

"(11) analyze each Department or Government-wide Federal workforce satisfaction or morale survey not later than 90 days after the date of the publication of each such survey and submit to the Secretary such analysis, including, as appropriate, recommendations to improve workforce satisfaction or morale within the Department;

"(12) review and approve all component employee engagement action plans to ensure such plans include initiatives responsive to the root cause of employee engagement challenges, as well as outcome-based performance measures and targets to track the progress of such initiatives;"

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) CHIEF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER.—The Chief Human Capital Officer may designate an employee of the Department to serve as a Chief Learning and Engagement Officer to assist the Chief Human Capital Officer in carrying out this section."; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) information on employee development opportunities catalogued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) and any available data on participation rates, attrition rates, and impacts on retention and employee satisfaction;

"(3) information on the progress of Department-wide strategic workforce planning efforts as determined under paragraph (2) of subsection (b);

"(4) information on the activities of the steering committee established pursuant to section 711(a), including the number of meetings, types of materials developed and distributed, and recommendations made to the Secretary;"

SEC. 3. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 711. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT.

"(a) STEERING COMMITTEE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an employee engagement steering committee, including representatives from operational components, headquarters, and field personnel, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees, and chaired by the Under Secretary for Management, to carry out the following activities:

"(1) Identify factors that have a negative impact on employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, such as perceptions about limitations on career progression, mobility, or development opportunities, collected through employee feedback platforms, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(2) Identify, develop, and distribute initiatives and best practices to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(3) Monitor efforts of each component to address employee engagement, morale, and communications based on employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(4) Advise the Secretary on efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within specific components and across the Department.

"(5) Conduct regular meetings and report, not less than once per quarter, to the Under Secretary for Management, the head of each component, and the Secretary on Department-wide efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications.

"(b) ACTION PLAN; REPORTING.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer, shall—