

A man of incredible courage and personal fortitude, Mr. Thayer is a true hero. He served our Nation through tremendous strife, yet he remains humble, gracious, and incredibly sharp.

It was an honor to meet Mr. Thayer, along with his coauthor, Allan Foote, this past weekend and present him with this well-deserved recognition. His life of courage and commitment to our Nation is unparalleled. It would have been easy for him to give up in the face of evil, but Mr. Thayer and the men of the 30th Infantry never gave up. They were fiercely dedicated to changing the course of the war, and they worked fearlessly to ensure that America and freedom would prevail.

It is truly an honor to share Mr. Thayer's unique story in this historic Chamber today. It was the opportunity of a lifetime to spend time with Mr. Thayer and hear his firsthand account of his experiences as a critical player in this major event of human history.

At age 95, nearly 96, he is the last survivor of this venerable group of heroes. We will remember him, and we thank him for his great service.

I highly recommend this wonderful book by this great veteran of World War II.

REPUBLICANS PLAN FOR REAL AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, as the American economy struggles to recover from COVID, the last thing we need is more wasteful spending on liberal priorities.

Inflation is higher than it has ever been in over a decade, and businesses are struggling to get workers back to work because of the lavish handouts from our Federal Government.

What our country needs is a pure investment in American infrastructure, one that would put people back to work and increase mobility for Americans; new roads, bridges, and pipelines built by Americans for Americans.

Unfortunately, the Democrats have yet again decided to play politics with America's future. Rather than investing heavily in new roads, pipelines, and bridges, Democrats are using their infrastructure bill as a means to push radical left ideas on energy, leaving out oil and gas workers while funding goes toward achieving the Green New Deal.

House Republicans have introduced our version of real American infrastructure. It is \$460 billion versus the Democrats' \$1 trillion plan. It includes investment in roads, bridges, and transit, water infrastructure, and broadband. It will help put Americans back to work and build a brighter future for America.

That is what real American infrastructure is about, not pushing far-left policies to appease the base. If the Democrats ever get serious about

wanting to build out America's infrastructure, Republicans are ready to work with them.

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 42 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 (Ms. SÁNCHEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Loving God, You who have been revealed in Scriptures, proclaimed through countless testimonies, and made known through innumerable and profound displays of Your steadfast love, how humbling it is to realize that You, O God, have called each one of us to this time and to this place to have a role to play in the revelation of Your gracious plan for all of creation.

When we are called to account for this hope we find in You, may we not be found wanting, but may we be prepared and willing to give answer.

When we are confronted by the counter-narratives of cynicism and bitterness, may our words provide witness to Your truth.

When we are convinced of our self-sufficiency only to discover our inadequacy, may You be merciful to us.

And when we stray from the calling to which You have called us, call us back that we may once again respond to Your grace and follow You.

Today may our words be as if they were Your own and our service be fortified with the strength that You alone provide, that You would be glorified in the living of our lives.

It is in Your sovereign name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BROWNLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BROWNLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic 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.

NATION-BUILDING HERE AT HOME

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Innovation Centers Acceleration Act, introduced by my friend and colleague, JOE MORELLE.

This bill creates an \$80 billion national competition that could direct new resources for communities like Rochester, Buffalo, and western New York to foster innovation and create new jobs and opportunities.

I am also a cosponsor of the Endless Frontiers Act, a version which passed the Senate with the support of our Senators, that would create similar opportunities and competition.

For too long, Congress has lacked the vision to nation-build here at home. Now we can enact a plan to compete with China and foster new opportunity and growth.

Groups like the Northland Workforce Training Center, the M&T Bank's technology hub, and the Thomas Beecher Innovation Center are leading the way in creating tech ecosystems in my region.

Enacting this bill could help propel these entities to achieve their full potential for the benefit of the entire community that could last for generations.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

PROTECTING THE HYDE AMENDMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, one of the most sacred American values is the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The right to life is not to be forsaken, and today we see Democrats reject the science of life and the fact that life begins at conception.

One of the longstanding acts of bipartisanship is the Hyde amendment, with one of its most vocal supporters being then-Senator Joe Biden. Since first enacted in 1976, it has saved over 2.4 million innocent lives.

Americans who hold their pro-life convictions should not be forced to front the bill for abortion services and violate their belief that life is worthy of protecting.

President Biden's recent budget proposal excludes this lifesaving amendment after 40 years of being included. This should not be controversial.

I will continue to fight to uphold the Hyde amendment and make sure not one dollar of taxpayer dollars goes to destroy the life of an unborn child. These children are the future of our country.

Life is too sacred, and we must respect the millions of Americans who believe everyone has a right to life.

In God we trust.

HELP IS ON THE WAY

(Ms. BROWNLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, many families across the country have felt the crushing economic burden of the pandemic, but additional help is on the way.

The American Rescue Plan is delivering on President Biden's promise to help working families make ends meet. This once-in-a-generation investment includes an expanded child tax credit, and many American families are eligible for a refund of up to \$3,600 per child, with \$300 monthly payments beginning on July 15.

This direct assistance to families will help parents put food on the table, buy clothing for their children, or pay for other expenses while building better lives for their families. These tax credits will also help lift millions of families and children out of poverty, including more than 145,000 children in my district of Ventura County in California.

Ending childhood poverty will help increase educational attainment and lifetime earnings, allowing for a prosperous future for America's families and children. The expanded child tax credit also ensures families can keep more of their hard-earned money and keep our Nation on the path to recovery.

ABORTION IS NOT HEALTHCARE

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Hyde amendment and stand to denounce President Biden's budget that proposes the most radical pro-abortion budget in decades.

For nearly 45 years, the Hyde amendment has saved millions of lives by ensuring no taxpayer dollars are appropriated to support abortion services. This amendment has been included in every single government funding bill with widespread support since 1976. Even President Biden himself voted in favor of the amendment for decades.

What has changed? Who is running the show at the White House?

The Democrats love to talk about the big lie. The biggest lie in the country right now is President Biden's promise to be bipartisan.

The good people of eastern North Carolina do not want their hard-earned tax dollars paying for abortions, like done with Planned Parenthood. We must put faith and family back in the center of our lives and promote policies that support our innocent unborn.

I am a physician. Abortion is not healthcare. It is murder. The Constitution is clear on our right to life, and the Hyde amendment protects that. I believe the Hyde amendment should be included in every budget.

WHEN FAMILIES DO WELL, OUR NATION DOES WELL

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, with each passing week, we are seeing the tremendous impact of the American Rescue Plan on our Nation, in New York State, in New York City, and in my own district of New York 12.

Included in the American Rescue Plan is the 1-year expansion of the child tax credit. Next month, families will begin to receive credits of up to \$300 per month to help with food, to help with rent, to help with the cost of childcare.

It is estimated that this funding will cut childhood poverty in half. Let me repeat that. It will cut childhood poverty in half. In my district alone, New York 12, this will help 54,000 children and lift nearly 5,000 children out of poverty.

Knowing the impact this tax credit will have on our families, I am asking all of my colleagues to join me in working to make it permanent.

When families do well, our Nation does well.

WE DESERVE ANSWERS ON COVID-19'S ORIGINS

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to demand answers and call for all intelligence into the origins of the COVID-19 virus to be declassified.

The United States should not rely on the World Health Organization, the same organization that covered for the Chinese Communist Party in the early days of the pandemic, to deliver answers to the American public about the origins of a virus that wrecked our economy and tragically claimed hundreds of thousands of American lives.

In April of last year, President Trump and Secretary Pompeo raised concerns of a COVID-19 lab leak. These concerns were completely ignored and censored by social media companies and traditional news outlets due to their vitriol and hatred for the former President. Now Speaker PELOSI and

House Democrats are stonewalling House Republicans' efforts to deliver answers.

It is our responsibility to keep this country safe. If the CCP is indeed found responsible for the leak and cover-up, they must be held accountable for the needless loss of life and for our economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to immediately join Republicans in our call for answers. The American people, and all those around the world who have lost loved ones, deserve answers.

CHILD TAX CREDIT BRINGS MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF

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

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, on Monday, I had the privilege of joining my colleagues, Representatives BILL FOSTER and SEAN CASTEN, and three incredible working mothers from my community, to speak about the importance of the expanded child tax credit.

We heard from these working moms how the child tax credit will deliver much-needed relief for their families after an incredibly difficult year. They will no longer have to worry about how they will afford their mortgage, childcare, and putting food on the table for themselves and their kids.

It is estimated that the expanded credit will cut child poverty in half, lifting 5,400 kids in my district out of poverty and benefiting thousands more.

We must sustain this investment in our kids and working families by making the child tax credit permanent to ensure millions of children have the resources they need for a brighter future.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2062, PROTECTING OLDER WORKERS AGAINST DISCRIMINATION ACT OF 2021; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 239, EQUAL ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTION FOR VETERANS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1443, LGBTQ BUSINESS EQUAL CREDIT ENFORCEMENT AND INVESTMENT ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 13, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION RELATING TO "UPDATE OF COMMISSION'S CONCILIATION PROCEDURES"; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 14, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY