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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 1, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EARL BLUMENAUER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Gracious God, such privilege You have shown us, what favor You have bestowed on this Nation from its inception 245 years ago. This Republic is nothing short of Your gracious gift.

In Your mercy, You have called us into liberty. On this Independence Day, we acknowledge the sacrifice of our country's ancestors and the toil of our Founders. Much blood has been spilled and tears shed to ensure the success of the experiment of American democracy.

Remind us again, even as we celebrate this weekend, that noble ideals served to build the strong foundation of these United States; our freedoms are not occasion for us to promote selfish interests or exercise our privilege over another.

Rather, in light of the independence we enjoy, we are called to recommit ourselves to what binds us together. May we once again seek cooperatively to love and serve You, as we devote ourselves to love and serve this country and all who have pledged themselves to its principles.

May we, without fault, in response to Your undeserved favor on our country, proclaim liberty throughout the land unto all the inhabitants thereof.

God bless America. In Your saving 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 gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TAKANO 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. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING ANDY MELENDREZ

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a constituent and dear friend, Andy Melendrez, on his retirement from the Riverside City Council.

Mr. Melendrez has served as a council member for Ward 2 for four consecutive terms. During his first term as council

member, he focused on enforcing public safety.

He has also always been a strong advocate for Riverside's youth. Mr. Melendrez brought the first youth opera program to the Cesar Chavez Community Center-Bobby Bonds Park and other social service programs for youth that would provide them with mentoring, workforce development training, and other opportunities to improve their lives.

Mr. Melendrez's dedication to improving the lives of families in Riverside is admirable. There is no doubt of his dedication and commitment to public service.

Riverside was lucky to have him as a local leader, and I wish him the best in his retirement from the city council.

REJECT PARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, every 5 years, this body deliberates a surface transportation reauthorization, which is traditionally a bipartisan effort to deliver improvements to America's infrastructure, like roads, bridges, highways, and transit.

Unfortunately, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are stripping this bill of its bipartisan roots in favor of their my-way-or-the-highway plan that is riddled with Green New Deal priorities, wasteful spending, and a clear prioritization of urban America over rural America.

The Democrats' bill provides an estimated \$307 billion for Green New Deal-related mandates, ties the hands of States to address their unique projects, fails to streamline the project delivery process, and pulls resources away from programs upon which rural communities rely.

That is a losing deal for every American waiting for real improvement to

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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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infrastructure they use every day, and it is a losing deal for our kids and grandkids who will be forced to foot the bill.

We must reject this harmful proposal and work together on a bipartisan surface transportation bill that meets the mark for every American who relies on our Nation's transportation systems.

STOP PALESTINIAN EVICTIONS

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

Ms. NEWMAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise on behalf of the thousands of Palestinian families in the West Bank that face the prospect of eviction, demolition, and displacement from their homes by the Israeli Government.

We have received word that demolition orders have already begun for homes in the al-Bustan neighborhood of Silwan in East Jerusalem. A few months ago, families in Sheikh Jarrah and other neighborhoods faced a similar fate. Tomorrow, others will also.

After the devastation and bloodshed of the past few months and the continued toll of the coronavirus pandemic on Palestinian families, we cannot allow these evictions, demolitions, and displacements to further exacerbate this humanitarian crisis.

No individual or family should ever be forcibly removed from their home, not in the West Bank, not in Gaza, not in Europe, not in Asia, not really anywhere. It is wrong.

This crisis must end now. This is about human rights, dignity, and respect. If we are ever to achieve peace in the region, a true two-state solution, there must be a mutual understanding.

I once again urge the Biden administration to do everything in its power to stop the evictions.

CONGRATULATING ISABELLA KERN

(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 recognize Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District 2021 Congressional Art Contest winner, Isabella Kern.

The annual art competition, organized by the Congressional Institute, showcases the artwork of high school students from across every congressional district in the country.

Isabella just graduated from Richland High School earlier this month. Her artwork titled "America's Working Woman" is an oil painting on canvas.

Isabella's work was selected by an independent panel of judges from 70 entries, which is the largest group of students to participate in the 15th District's congressional artwork competition.

All the winning pieces will be displayed for the year in the Cannon tun-

nel, where they will be viewed by Members of Congress, staff, and many visitors to the Capitol every day.

Congratulations, Isabella, and congratulations to all those in Pennsylvania's 15th District and throughout the Nation who participated in this competition and expressed their creative skills.

COMMENDING PENNSYLVANIA FOR REACHING FOURTH OF JULY VACCINATION GOAL

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, after a year of battling the coronavirus pandemic, my home Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ended its mask mandate.

I am proud of Pennsylvania for exceeding President Biden's goal for vaccinations by the Fourth of July. With over 75 percent of adults with one dose and 60 percent with both doses, we are safely lifting our mask mandate.

I salute my State's leadership in putting health and science first as we sought to get the virus under control.

When this pandemic started, no one knew how long it would take to get past these precautions. At times, it was difficult to see any return to normalcy, but we got there together.

I thank my constituents for their sacrifice. Pennsylvania families, teachers, students, workers, and businesses saved lives, jobs, and businesses.

As we are on our way to beating this pandemic, I look forward to seeing their smiling faces again on Independence Day.

Let's take lessons from this pandemic. American workers need higher wages. Healthcare is a right. School and childcare funding is vital. It is time to upgrade our infrastructure.

KENNY BEDNAREK REPRESENTS IOWA AND USA IN OLYMPICS

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, the Summer Olympics in Tokyo will kick off in less than a month, and I would be remiss not to mention a young track star from a college in my district who is making his first Olympic appearance.

Kenny Bednarek, a 22-year-old sprinter who hails from Indian Hills Community College in my hometown of Ottumwa, earned a spot on the USA Olympic team when he finished second in the men's 200-meter dash, with an impressive time of 19.78 seconds, becoming the first Iowa junior college athlete to qualify for the Olympic Games.

Though COVID-19 might have delayed the 2020 Summer Olympics, we are all glad to see that it is back on schedule, and Iowa's Second District is

proud to be represented by such a stellar athlete on Team USA.

I wish you the best, Kenny, and I know you will do great as you go on to Tokyo to represent both the United States and Iowa in the Summer Olympic Games.

I would also like to wish my brother Richard Miller a happy birthday. Richard was a Secret Service agent who guarded five Presidents. Happy birthday, Rick.

And happy Independence Day to our Nation.

TAKE ACTION ON WILDFIRES

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

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, 2020 was California's worst fire season on record, and 2021 has the potential to be even worse.

Wildfires damage property, pollute our air, and threaten lives, and we need to take action.

I have been calling for fair pay for Federal firefighters. These brave Americans put their lives on the line to keep our communities safe, and I am glad that the Biden administration recently committed to paying Federal firefighters at least \$15 an hour.

As we begin another fire season, we need to strengthen our coordination across levels of government to learn from past disasters. I have introduced legislation to create an independent board to closely examine and report on natural disasters. This will keep families safe and save taxpayers money.

And, of course, we need to tackle a key contributor to worsening fire seasons, the climate crisis.

As we move forward on infrastructure legislation, environmental protection must be a priority.

For the millions of Americans and Californians hurt by wildfires each year, doing nothing is not an option.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend the unborn and protect taxpayers from being forced to fund abortions.

The Hyde amendment, which prohibits taxpayer dollars from paying for abortion, has enjoyed broad, bipartisan consensus since 1976, and a majority of Americans support it today. It is estimated to have saved nearly 2.5 million lives.

It saddens me that I now have to defend this commonsense provision from attacks by congressional Democrats and the Biden administration. Americans should not be forced to financially support the destruction of life.