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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STANTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 2, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GREG STANTON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING SERGEANT MAJOR RICK CALDWELL

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sergeant Major Rick Caldwell for receiving the Silver Helmet Award presented during the AMVETS 76th national convention.

The Silver Helmet Award is given to those for their excellent and outstanding accomplishment in Americanism, defense, rehabilitation, and congressional and civil service.

In 2002, Sergeant Major Caldwell helped bring back the AMVETS post to Camp Atterbury.

After serving in the U.S. Army for 32 years, Sergeant Major Rick Caldwell resigned as a reservist in 2008.

Sergeant Major Rick Caldwell has committed his life to serving this country and his community in our hometown of Columbus, Indiana. I am honored to call Rick my friend.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sergeant Major Rick Caldwell on this award and thank him for his service.

CELEBRATING THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 246 years of service by the United States Marine Corps.

Founded on November 10, 1775, before our Nation was established, the Marines stood ready to win our country's hardest battles and never back down. Marines are guided by our core values of honor, courage, and commitment.

Even when the United States has faced tremendous odds in the war to preserve our freedom, like Iwo Jima, the Marines have answered the call to always remain faithful.

As a marine whose greatest honor it has been to serve our Nation and to those who have served and continue to serve: Oorah. Semper fi.

CONGRATULATING COLUMBUS NORTH GIRLS CROSS-COUNTRY TEAM

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Columbus North girls cross-country team on winning the State championship this past weekend.

This marks the second State title for the Bull Dogs, and I congratulate each of these young student-athletes, head coach Rick Sluder, and the entire team on a job well done.

Furthermore, the Columbus North boys also finished third as a team in the State finals, while Reese Kilbarger-Stumpff claimed overall victory in the boys' race.

Having each of my four children participate in cross-country at Columbus North, I know these accomplishments stand as a true reflection of their outstanding program.

It is great to see the Bull Dogs back on top again.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR CHUCK FEWELL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Greenfield Mayor Chuck Fewell as he has announced his retirement.

A fellow marine, Chuck's career started in law enforcement as a member of the Shelbyville Police Department before moving on to become an Indiana State Trooper.

When there was a vacancy to serve as mayor, Chuck stepped up and answered the call, serving his neighbors in the community for nearly a decade.

Today, I congratulate Chuck on his many years of dedication to making Greenfield such a great place. I know I speak for many when I say he will be dearly missed at city hall.

On behalf of Indiana's Sixth District, we wish Mayor Fewell a peaceful retirement enjoying time with his wife, Kristen, four kids, and seven grandkids.

NUMBERS DON'T LIE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note the U.S. GDP has dropped to a disappointing 2 percent in the third quarter.

Thanksgiving 2021 is expected to be the most expensive in the history of the holiday, a Turkey tax year.

Americans are being warned that their Christmas presents will cost more this year and might not arrive on time.

Numbers don't lie. Democrats' out-of-control spending and far-left socialist policies are to blame for the supply chain and economic crisis America is facing.

It is clear: The Democrats' liberal agenda is out of touch with Hoosier values and out of touch with America.

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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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SOARING AMERICAN ENERGY COSTS

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the energy crisis that my Hoosiers and all Americans are facing.

This week, President Biden jetted off to Glasgow to rub shoulders with world dignitaries and to take a nap.

American energy costs are soaring while he is sleeping, and the bottom line is this: This administration needs to worry less about their image and more about how Hoosiers can keep their lights on, heat their homes this winter, and afford to fill up their gas tanks.

EARTH SCIENCE LESSON ON
EVAPOTRANSPIRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about evapotranspiration.

Perhaps you are not used to getting a mini Earth science lesson on the floor of the House, but hear me out for a minute.

Nevada boasts 300 sunny days a year. It is great for hiking and biking, not so great when it comes to precipitation and our growing severe drought. But we can't just rely on precipitation data in understanding our drought because we are losing water with all of our sunny days.

Evapotranspiration, or ET, is the combination of water lost through evaporation from the land and transpiration from plants. It is a critical measurement that we need to plan for the future of western water.

Until recently, and frankly, to my surprise, water managers could not access this data. But a group of scientists, academics, advocacy organizations, and even corporations are working to change that.

OpenET is filling the biggest data gap in water management by giving everyone access to ET data, and I mean everyone. You can Google it and pull it right up on your computer.

From water managers, to utility providers, to farmers and ranchers, to conservationists, this data will help folks across the West make better water decisions to protect our most vital resource for decades to come.

That is exactly why I have introduced the bipartisan, bicameral Open Access Evapotranspiration Act with Senator CORTEZ MASTO to fill these critical data gaps and inform drought solutions across the West.

I am all in when it comes to finding solutions for Nevada's drought. We must explore every option and make these investments before it is too late.

THE TIME IS NOW TO LOWER DRUG PRICES

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we continue to negotiate the Build Back Better Act.

When I ran for Congress, I promised my constituents that I would do everything to fight for lower drug prices.

Over and over again in townhalls, I hear from my constituents that they

are so extremely worried about how they are going to pay for prescription drugs. In fact, one in five seniors reports not taking their medicines as prescribed because of the cost. I have even heard from constituents who say they skip meals so they can afford the prescriptions they need to stay healthy.

This is outrageous. I urge my colleagues to address this problem with the urgency it deserves.

With the Build Back Better agenda, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to change the status quo and make good on our promise that no one should have to choose between affording their prescription drugs, or putting food on the table, or paying rent.

We must enact legislation to lower the cost of prescription drugs. The time is now. Our constituents all over this country are counting on us.

NCAA SHOULD BE ACCOUNTABLE

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

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about something that plays a special role in American life, and that is college athletics.

College sports is ingrained in our culture, and its impact is far-reaching on student-athletes, alumni, and their fans.

For decades, college athletics have been governed by the National Collegiate Athletic Association, more commonly known as the NCAA. The NCAA has tremendous power, really omnipotent power over college athletics. The NCAA decides the rules of play, who gets to play, and who gets the revenue.

Now, the NCAA investigates and penalizes any school, coach, or student-athlete that it claims infringes on its rules. This is what the NCAA calls the infractions process.

Let's be clear. The NCAA infraction process is systemically and fundamentally flawed. The NCAA's rules are vague, constantly changing, and irregularly enforced. The NCAA's investigations lack transparency and established procedures and are performed while universities are often kept in the dark.

Fundamentally, there is no due process for member schools nor for their students. The NCAA investigations can last years, and they cost universities millions of dollars in legal fees and other expenses.

Finally, the NCAA punishes universities and student-athletes with no consistency and no predictability. The NCAA may decide to punish one school but not another.

Without a doubt, the NCAA acts with little regard for fairness, due process, or transparency. Through its monopolistic power and lack of oversight, the NCAA has caused irreparable damage to athletic departments, to colleges, and to universities across the Nation.

That is why today I am introducing the NCAA Accountability Act with my

colleagues, Representatives BURGESS OWENS and JOSH HARDER.

This bipartisan legislation will establish due process protections for any athlete, university, or individual going through the NCAA infraction process. These protections include fair notice on enforcement proceedings, a defined statute of limitations, and a deadline for the completion of investigations.

The NCAA Accountability Act also includes mechanisms to ensure that NCAA sanctions are equitable and fit the alleged infraction.

Universities will have the right to resolve punishment disputes with the NCAA through binding arbitration. This will bring an independent, unbiased voice into the process to ensure that an equitable outcome is obtained.

If the NCAA fails to comply with these obligations, the Department of Justice will have the authority to fine the NCAA and its staff, and the Department of Justice will have the power to permanently remove any member from the NCAA Board of Governors.

For our universities and our student-athletes, it is vital that Congress end the NCAA's long reign as prosecutor, judge, jury, and executioner over college athletics.

I urge my colleagues to support this important, bipartisan legislation that will finally hold the NCAA accountable.

LOWERING COSTS OF
PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, years ago, I began running for Congress because I believed that hardworking Americans shouldn't have to pay three times what people in other countries pay for the same exact medicines.

I ran for Congress because I believed that none of our constituents should have to pay \$20,000 a year for insulin, a medication they quite literally cannot live without.

I ran for Congress because I believe that Minnesotans deserve a Representative who will fight to lower the cost of drugs, even in the face of millions of dollars in attack ads funded by Big Pharma.

My fellow colleagues, this week we have a real opportunity to make a difference in our constituents' lives, to save American families thousands of hard-earned dollars every single year, while finally standing up to an industry that has raked in record-breaking profits at the expense of hardworking Americans.

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We cannot allow this opportunity to pass us by.

Empowering Medicare to negotiate drug prices would not only grant long overdue relief to struggling constituents but save the American taxpayers billions of dollars annually.