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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. BROWNLEY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 9, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JULIA BROWNLEY 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:

Create in us pure hearts, O God, and recreate within us this day new and steadfast spirits.

Be our judge. When we find ourselves caught up in the love of triumph, transform us. Redeem our appetite for fighting and winning. Beat the swords we wield against others into tools that, instead, carve out safe places for dialogue and collaboration.

Be our arbitrator. Disrupt our inclination to fight and win. Redeem our deep desire to conquer our adversaries and recast our spears into instruments that serve to reveal our best selves.

Be our guide. Teach us something other than conflict. Redeem our predisposition to demonize or demean the other and form in us habits of decency and civility, honor, and respect.

We surrender ourselves to this radical transformation and yield ourselves to the redemption that Your love offers us.

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation and grant within us a willing spirit that we would be sustained in our service to You in this time.

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 the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. NORTON 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

DEMOCRATS CREATING NEW ECONOMY WITH RECORD JOBS

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

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, this month's job report gives Americans something to cheer about. Unemployment is down a full 2 percentage points under Democratic congressional and Presidential leadership since President Biden took office. The corollary to this impressive unemployment figure is the record 6 million jobs created, a record for a new President.

With the signing of the new transportation and infrastructure bill, more

jobs, for example, in my own district, the District of Columbia, are on the way—\$1.1 billion for roads and bridges.

Build Back Better promises even more economic dividends. Analysts say Build Back Better is the biggest cost-cutting bill for the middle class in modern American history. With costs down, job growth will be spurred.

Democrats are creating a new economy featuring record jobs for the American people.

HONORING THE PASSING OF CAROL JENKINS BARNETT

(Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the passing of Carol Jenkins Barnett.

Carol was the daughter of Publix Super Markets founder George Jenkins. She carried the mantle of generosity and philanthropy on behalf of the Jenkins family and Publix Super Market Charities, benefiting the residents of Lakeland, Polk County, the State of Florida, and beyond.

Carol had a remarkable love for her family and for the families of our community, advocating especially for children and early childhood education with her time and talent as well as her treasure.

She impacted so many people and so many communities in ways both seen and unseen. Quite simply, I have never known a more generous person than Carol Jenkins Barnett.

We will be praying for Carol's husband, Barney; their sons, Wesley and Nicholas; and their families as they mourn the loss of this exceptional woman.

Carol will be missed, but her legacy endures in the generations she has touched.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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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ATTACKS ON ELECTIONS MUST BE STOPPED

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

Mr. KILMER. Madam Speaker, I have been to every nook and cranny of the region I represent. I have never spoken to anyone anywhere who thought elected officials should be able to use their public office for personal profit.

I have never spoken to anyone anywhere who believes that elected officials should be able to interfere in independent investigations or to punish whistleblowers.

I have never spoken to anyone anywhere in my district who thinks we should allow foreign countries to interfere in our elections.

Addressing these issues is what the Protecting Our Democracy Act is all about.

Importantly, this bill includes the Honest Ads Act, a bill that I led to increase accountability for online political ads. There are disclaimer requirements for print, broadcast, and radio ads, and our bipartisan bill would set those same requirements for online ads so that the American people can know who is paying for the ads they are seeing online and so we can keep foreign money out.

We know that foreign adversaries have attacked our elections in the past, and we have to stop it. That is why I am proud to cosponsor this legislation, and I encourage my colleagues to pass this bill today.

HONORING VICTOR GARZA ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Victor Garza and to wish him a happy 100th birthday.

Victor Garza is a World War II veteran who is devoted to his family, his faith, and service to this country. He joined the United States Navy at the age of 22 and served in the Pacific theater during World War II.

During his service, he worked as a heavy equipment operator in the Seabee construction battalion and was stationed in Japan where he assisted with efforts to free prisoners of war.

After his service to his country, he devoted himself to his community, building homes and businesses across Victoria, Texas, and being an active member of the VFW and the CWV. He also devoted himself to his family, raising seven children with Amalia, his wife of 74 years.

Victor is a true hero and an example to all of us of what it means to be an American. I am proud to honor him today and hope he has a wonderful 100th birthday.

CREATING A STRONG ECONOMY FOR ALL AMERICANS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Madam Speaker, as the pandemic put pressure on the pockets of Americans, House Democrats worked to not only bolster our economy but to get people back to work.

The November jobs report shows that our economy is on the right track to doing just that. In fact, 6 million jobs have been created in the first 10 months of the Biden administration. No other administration has created more jobs in its first year. But during the Trump administration's mismanagement of the pandemic, we lost over 9 million jobs. So we still have work to do.

The recently House-passed Build Back Better Act will include specific and urgent measures to uplift working families, lower everyday costs, fight inflation, and generate millions of good-paying jobs.

House Democrats remain committed to creating a strong economy and an economy that works for all Americans.

BENEFITS OF VITAMIN D

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, as the Congress prepares to break for Christmas, it is important to review one more time what we can do to deal with the coronavirus.

While vaccines unquestionably have a role here, I am a little bit appalled at the lack of information coming from the public health establishment regarding vitamin D. Tests show that adequate levels of vitamin D can reduce the amount of COVID cases by up to 75 percent, which is good, including for people who have taken the vaccine.

Right now, Madam Speaker, experts feel you should have at least 30 nanograms per milliliter to have adequate amounts of vitamin D. Right now, 65 percent of our White population, 87 percent of our Hispanic population, and 96 percent of our Black population do not have adequate vitamin D levels.

The public health establishment has to be asked: Why is this not publicized? Why do we not give routine vitamin D tests to people coming in for their annual checkups? And why, if you show up at the hospital with COVID, are not vitamin D tests automatic?

I ask public health establishments to please familiarize themselves with the benefits of vitamin D and the role it plays.

EFFECTS OF CORONAVIRUS ON ECONOMY

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

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, the President has done an excellent job on trying to address our economic problems, and one of the main reasons we have economic problems is because of the coronavirus.

The President has an excellent vaccination program that the Republicans, unfortunately, are fighting. As people have experienced the pandemic, they have been less willing to go out and engage in commerce and travel and had to reduce some of their business activities. This has hurt the supply chain and hurt our economy. So the President's vaccine plan is also an economic plan.

Republicans in the Senate led an effort to cancel all the vaccination programs that the President has to protect us, to keep us healthy, and to move our economy forward. That is unfortunate. We need to support these vaccination plans, and we need to support the President in these efforts.

Inflation has been a problem. The President has released some oil from the reserve to help deal with gas prices. Gas prices are going down, and they will go down naturally.

One of the great reasons why inflation has increased is because of used car prices. You have to think about when used car prices go up, Madam Speaker, somebody is selling that used car, and they are getting more money to put in their pocket. Things are getting better.

God bless New Mexico.

HONORING NEWSCHANNEL 9 ANCHOR DAN CUMMINGS

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

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the renowned 37-year career of NewsChannel 9 anchor Dan Cummings.

For nearly four decades, Dan Cummings has been one of the most trusted names in local news and has earned a well-deserved reputation for his integrity and investigative prowess.

A native of Cayuga County, Dan Cummings grew up in central New York and got his start in journalism working at local radio stations. In 1984, Dan Cummings joined the NewsChannel 9 team and, in 2008, began anchoring the morning news. Notably, Dan was the driving force behind "Newsmakers," a weekly public affairs program.

In these prominent roles, Dan Cummings has been celebrated for his ability to conduct smart, original reporting and communicate even the most difficult stories in a calm and straightforward manner.

I have known Dan Cummings for many years. I can unequivocally say he is one of the most fair and genuine news professionals and is an extremely generous man who is actively involved in multiple charities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in honoring Dan Cummings for an incredible