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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. CROW).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 2, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JASON CROW 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:

From before the beginning of time, God, You have been for us. In eternity past, You had Your hand in both our creation and in our redemption.

May we appreciate the lives You have given us, and deliver us from our indulgence which squanders the opportunities You have provided.

May we understand that You have given us dominion over the Earth, and disavow us of the prideful notion that we alone are masters of our own existence.

May we see the perfect design You conceived at creation, and forgive us our destructive disregard for Your handiwork.

Most important, may we receive the love You have shown us, and show us mercy when our lives reflect, instead, hate and indifference.

Recreate us, O Lord, to live into Your prevenient plan. We stand in need of Your redemptive grace.

In the strength of Your eternal name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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.

IN SUPPORT OF THE FOR THE PEOPLE ACT

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

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

Included in this important legislation is the Vote by Mail Tracking Act, legislation I introduced to ensure that all ballots in Federal elections have a Postal Service barcode.

This would enable election officials and the public to track the status of a ballot from when it is put in the mail to when it is delivered, reducing anxiety, increasing accuracy, transparency, and accountability for our ballots.

After an election year with record-breaking numbers of Americans voting by mail, it has never been more critical to provide election officials and the public peace of mind that every vote matters and is counted accurately.

I urge overwhelming support for H.R. 1, which includes reforms across our Government that are critically important, and it includes this important bill, too.

HONORING THE SERVICE AND SACRIFICE OF K-9 OFFICER LUNA

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the tragic loss of K-9 Luna, a beloved member of the Duluth Police Department, who was shot and killed in the line of duty last week.

Luna was a 3-year-old Dutch Shepherd who joined the department's K-9 unit less than 2 years ago, after her handler, Officer Aaron Haller, lost his K-9 partner, Haas, in a similar incident.

As a former Duluth police officer with the Duluth Police Department, I know firsthand that our K-9 partners perform their duties bravely and with great loyalty.

To their handlers, a K-9 is more than a dog. They are a partner, protector, and a valued family member. K-9 officers go home with their handlers each night, so their dedication to their handlers and their job does not end after each workday.

K-9 Luna was a guardian of the Duluth community. She died a hero's death, giving her life to protect her partner and fellow officers on the scene.

My heart is with Luna's handler, Officer Aaron Haller, the Haller family, and the entire Duluth Police Department during this time of deep sorrow.

I know it cannot be easy to say goodbye to such a good and loving friend. I speak for the entire Duluth community when I say that we are eternally grateful for Luna's service and sacrifice.

REMOVE BIG MONEY IN POLITICS

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

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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H885

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1, the For the People Act.

I have said since day one on this job that if you want to do big and transformational things in America, you first have to get rid of big money in politics.

Whether you want to tackle the climate crisis, reform healthcare, address the gun violence epidemic, or level the playing field for American workers, it is all about shutting off the flow of big money, ending gerrymandering, bolstering our ethics laws, and expanding access to the ballot box. H.R. 1 will do all of these things.

This transformational package includes my bill, the End Dark Money Act, to crack down on mega-donors who hide their political contributions through phony social welfare organizations.

If we have learned anything in the past few years, it is that our democracy is in need of reform. We can and must do big things again, and it begins by passing H.R. 1.

I urge my colleagues to join me in this historic effort.

PRIORITIZE SAVE OUR STAGES FUNDING

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak for thousands of music venues, movie theaters, and museums that are struggling to survive the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past year, Congress has come together in a bipartisan manner to pass over \$3.5 trillion in pandemic assistance. While much of this aid was necessary, government bureaucracy has routinely delayed getting this money into the hands of the American people. As of today, there are still \$1.3 trillion in unspent COVID-19 relief.

In December, the House passed my bipartisan Save our Stages Act, which established the \$15 billion Shuttered Venue Operators Grant, providing direct relief for music venues, movie theaters, and museums devastated by the pandemic. These businesses were the first to close and will be some of the last to reopen.

Nine weeks have passed since President Trump signed this into law, and the SBA still has not even produced the application for venue owners to apply. At this rate, some grants won't be delivered until summer.

This is unacceptable, and the SBA needs to get to work immediately. Every day we wait, there is another door that permanently closes. The bottom line is: The shows must go on.

In God we trust.

REMEMBERING UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL EXA FAY HOOTEN

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor a great West Texan, United States Air Force Colonel Exa Fay Hooten, of Abilene, Texas. She passed away on January 16 at the age of 92. She was born on August 27, 1928, in Floydada, Texas, to Maude Latham and Richard W. Hooten.

After graduating high school, she attended Texas Tech University, where she received a bachelor's degree and then later received her Ph.D. from Texas Women's University.

Exa Fay believed travel was second in importance only to a college education. She joined the Air Force and traveled the world working in military hospitals, taking care of our wounded warriors. After Active Duty, she entered the Reserves and was the first U.S. Air Force Reserve dietician to obtain the rank of full colonel.

I thank Colonel Hooten for her service and patriotism. I thank her for showing us that, like the West Texas horizon, the possibilities of life are limitless when you pursue your passion and put others first.

God bless, and go West Texas.

RECOGNIZING CARTER SMITH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Carter Smith of Cresson, Pennsylvania. Carter has accepted a fully qualified appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Carter is the son of Gary and Holly Lynne Smith.

As a student at Penn Cambria High School, Carter was heavily involved in the speech club, theater, and the National Honor Society, as well as both the football and basketball teams.

In addition to having a long resume of extracurricular activities, Carter has excelled in the classroom as well, maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

April Gergely, Carter's English teacher, had nothing but positive things to say about him in her letter of recommendation.

She said: "Carter stood out as an extremely hardworking, intelligent, perceptive, detail-oriented, honest, reliable, and mature student."

I am confident Carter's experience in and out of the classroom will serve him well as he looks forward to this exciting new phase of life.

I thank Carter for his commitment to our Nation, and I wish him the best of luck at West Point.

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BURMA

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

Ms. TENNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to raise awareness of the grave

human rights violations taking place in Burma, also known as Myanmar.

For decades, the country of Burma has been working diligently to establish credible elections, democratic civilian governance, and a peaceful transition of power.

However, this progress came to a halt after the military violently seized control on February 1, 2021. The military has since used this unlawful control to violently oppress ethnic minorities, including firing artillery into Burmese villages and displacing over 7,000 people.

Peaceful protests for freedom have been met with deadly force, killing 18 and imprisoning nearly 700. One protester, a 16-year-old boy, was reportedly shot in the head by an army sniper.

Utica, New York, my hometown, is home to over 4,000 Burmese refugees and new Burmese-American citizens. Many fear for the lives of their friends and families in peril in Burma.

In Utica, they have peacefully stood in solidarity with their home country, holding signs that say, "Save Democracy, Save Burma."

I met recently with a group of these refugees to hear their grim accounts of the conditions in their native country. Their passion and courage are inspiring.

We must also condemn the cruelty and genocide against the Rohingya people, an ethnic minority who also desperately need our support and assistance.

The U.S. remains a symbol of democracy to the world. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Burmese people in their quest for freedom and democracy.

□ 0915

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Ms. LOFGREN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 179, I call up the bill (H.R. 1) to expand Americans' access to the ballot box, reduce the influence of big money in politics, strengthen ethics rules for public servants, and implement other anti-corruption measures for the purpose of fortifying our democracy, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). Pursuant to House Resolution 179 the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-9 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 1

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 "For the People Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. ORGANIZATION OF ACT INTO DIVISIONS; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) DIVISIONS.—*This Act is organized into divisions as follows:*