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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Almighty God, You who dwell in Your high and holy place, high and lofty One who inhabits eternity, hear the prayers of those who reside in the torment of these times.

In these harrowing days when nations rage and war threatens to upend this fragile world, we call to You with humble hearts that You would speak into our conflicts and bring order to our chaos.

May this be a time for our self-reflection.

How have we played a part in the instability of the world's order? Call us to account for any careless stewardship of our influence.

How have we failed to prevent bloodshed and destruction? Take us to task for any indifference we may have shown to the growing unrest around us.

Repay the contrariness of our faithfulness with the comfort of Your constant care. In Your great mercy, heal our world. Lead those who call upon You out of harm's way.

Revive the spirit of the humble, those whose courage grows faint, whose souls languish in the midst of violence and oppression, and grant us Your peace.

We call upon Your sovereign name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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

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

PROVIDING SUPPORT TO UKRAINE

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

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, no amount of warnings from the Biden administration and our intelligence could have prepared us for the sheer brutality and devastation we have seen from Mr. Putin, who expected a quick toppling of Ukraine's young democracy. He was wrong.

We have watched in awe the resilience and heroism of the Ukrainians led by President Zelensky. But their bravery alone is not enough. We must meet their bravery with global support.

This is a war and a humanitarian crisis—families, children, forced to leave their homes in the carnage of war. The number of refugees fleeing Ukraine has already exceeded 1 million, and it is estimated that it will go as high as 5 million. But death, destruction, and displacement must not be forever.

Madam Speaker, I thank President Biden and his administration for their steadfast leadership in the West's support of Ukraine. Alongside the President, this Congress must continue to provide necessary weapons, medicines, food, fuel, and refuge.

Ukrainians worldwide, please know: We are here for you. You are welcome here.

God bless America. God bless Ukraine.

CLEARING BACKLOGGED VETERAN REQUESTS

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, since November 2020, our team has pressured the National Personnel Records Center, the agency responsible for processing veterans' service records, to return to full staffing levels and expedite the requests of veterans, who in some cases have waited over a year for access to their benefits.

Most recently, the NPRC was operating at 25 percent capacity due to the pandemic, but it said it would fully reopen this month. However, the agency offered no plan on how it will tackle a backlog that has now grown to 600,000 records requests. That is 100,000 more added since June 2021.

The lack of transparency at the NPRC has made it clear that we must pass legislation, like the RECORDS Act, to direct the NPRC to fully reopen and report to Congress on its efforts to clear out the backlog of records requests.

Our veterans did not hesitate to sacrifice for America, and we must not hesitate in our duty to ensure they have a responsive government that is attentive to their needs.

STRENGTHENING ECONOMY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we heard at the State of the

□ 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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Union address, President Biden's first year delivered a record-breaking number of new jobs. In total, 6.7 million new jobs were created for hardworking Americans.

America also saw the largest calendar-year decrease in unemployment in the Nation's history, paired with record-breaking GDP growth.

But America's economic prosperity is only one side of the equation. America's public health has also been strengthened during Biden's first year.

Vaccination rates have tremendously risen from 15 percent to a whopping 65 percent in 1 year for full vaccination. That is more than 215 million fully vaccinated Americans—again, a record. In addition, 70 million households also received free COVID tests, and those numbers will only rise.

While these are tremendous accomplishments, I can't say I am too surprised. You see, we have a strong leader in the White House and the backing of the American people. As President Biden said on Tuesday, never bet against the American people.

HONORING LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Madam Speaker, I have met with many police officers who serve communities in Texas' 25th District, and I continue to be inspired by their acts of bravery and dedication to protecting others.

Now, we are facing a time where there has been a tragic increase in police officers being targeted and killed while on the job as violent crime skyrockets across America.

Last year alone, 346 officers were shot in the line of duty, the highest in 20 years. One of Texas 25th's own, Hill County Constable Kevin Cordell, was shot multiple times while on a high-speed car chase. One bullet went through the windshield of his vehicle, struck him in the head, and exited through his neck. By God's grace, he survived the shooting and recovered after surgery.

Liberal activists who care more about political agendas than public safety are making our cities unsafe. Last year, Austin, Texas, submitted to the radical left's antipolice hatred and cut \$150 million from their police budget. This budget cut put Texas families and residents at greater risk for longer emergency response times and paves the way for lawlessness to run wild in the city.

HONORING REGINA JACKSON

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the retirement of Ms. Regina Jackson, a phenomenal leader and constituent and

a very good friend, after over 27 years of service as president and CEO of the East Oakland Youth Development Center.

Ms. Jackson's involvement with EOYDC began in 1984 when, as a graduate of the Coro Fellowship graduate program in public affairs, she was invited to serve on the board of directors. Ms. Jackson has made it her mission to invest in our children and has dedicated herself to this work.

A key part of her mission at EOYDC has been inspiring our youth to perform at high levels by providing a safe, nurturing environment where young people could grow and thrive.

In addition, her contributions to our community are magnificent. She is a global thought leader for youth development. The International Diplomacy Council has sought her expertise to counsel agencies across the world. Recently, with the support of my office and local East Bay organizations, Ms. Jackson led two delegations of students to China for a cross-cultural exchange.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the 13th Congressional District of California, I commend Ms. Jackson for her tireless service and dedication and wish her well in this new chapter of her life.

PURSUE ENERGY, NOT POLITICAL AGENDAS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, this country faces an energy crisis of all types: fuel, gas, electricity. But what is the issue we are pursuing? It seems to be all about this little sliver right here on this chart: carbon dioxide.

Most people are surprised when told 0.04 percent composes the carbon dioxide part of our atmosphere. You see 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen, trace gases. I had to break this out of trace gases so you can see it on the chart.

Yet, in my home State of California—where we had CO₂-free power plants, two nuclear plants; the second one will be gone in 3 years—they want to remove hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River in my district that make zero CO₂.

So, is this really about CO₂, or is it about some other political agenda? Because in my district, when the wind blows, they have to shut the power off because the trees the Forest Service are not managing might blow into the power lines coming from a hydroelectric dam.

I do not understand what the energy policy of this country is because I don't think there is one anymore. We need to get back to doing what we do well and not pursue this fruitless agenda.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF RAYMOND JORDAN, JR.

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of the late State Representative Raymond Jordan, Jr.

Representative Jordan was a good man, a trailblazing man, and a friend and mentor to many. A resident of Springfield and a product of Springfield Public Schools, he went on to become the first African American elected to the Massachusetts State House.

Over the course of his career, he chaired the powerful Ways and Means Committee and the Committee on Housing and Urban Development. His indefatigable commitment to equity and justice earned him the enduring yet fitting nickname of "Barracuda."

His impact in his local community and in Massachusetts' history and politics is indelible and enduring—in bills, in laws, in buildings, but, most of all, in people.

But many of his greatest achievements will live on through the loving family that he built alongside the love of his life, Donna Harris Jordan. Of all his most memorable titles and tasks, he would most want to be remembered as a loving husband and father who fought tirelessly for his community and his people.

When I think of the late Raymond Jordan, Jr., I am reminded of the words of the African-American hymn that says: "May the work I have done speak for me."

Indeed, the many works of Raymond Jordan speak for him both now and for eternity. May he rest in power and in peace.

BIDEN ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, we are in the depths of the Biden energy crisis.

On day one of Joe Biden's Presidency, he launched his war on American energy when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline, which could be supplying 830,000 barrels of oil a day from Canada to U.S. refineries. As recently as a few days ago, we imported 600,000 barrels of oil from Russia.

During the State of the Union, President Biden claimed he wanted to "Buy American." But regrettably, he did not apply that to our oil or our natural gas. Biden has made it crystal clear that his anti-energy agenda would continue.

He also announced that he would once again tap into the Strategic Petroleum Reserve and release 30 million barrels of oil in another desperate attempt to reduce gas prices here at home. The SPR is supposed to be used for national security emergencies and