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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:

Light of the world, shine Your love on us this day. Break forth into the darkness of our world with Your truth and illuminate the paths You would have us take as we move through this day.

Make visible to us Your abiding presence, that in the certainty of Your company we would be more willing to go forth, step up, and speak Your life-giving word into the uncertainty of these times.

Reveal to us Your redeeming will, that we would receive the righteousness You offer us. May our personal holiness be grounded in humility and motivated by our desire to serve You.

Thus, may Your light shine unobscured through our renewed commitment to this world, our country, and Your people. May we have the eyes to see those who are in need, and may our lives reflect the warmth of Your light on those who hide in despair.

This day, may our words, our deeds, and our relationships one with another, be a witness to Your light and Your love.

In the gift of Your revealed name we pray.

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 gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DEAN 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.

CONGRATULATING CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA

(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, I congratulate and thank the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia on the opening of their second inpatient hospital, in my district, in King of Prussia.

CHOP's Middleman Family Pavilion will dedicate more than 250,000 square feet of space solely to children. In our continued fight with COVID-19, we need more facilities like this one that families from all over our region can access.

As the first pediatric emergency room in Montgomery County, CHOP will ensure that more children in Pennsylvania will have timely, nationally acclaimed care.

The Middleman Family Pavilion will also create many jobs for the Montgomery County community, bringing needed jobs to communities like Norristown, Bridgeport, and Conshohocken.

Now more than ever, with CHOP, it is all about children. That is the same for me. We need healthcare facilities that meet the demands of today, that treat our children with expert care and our families with compassion. Congratulations to CHOP.

A LOT CAN HAPPEN IN A YEAR

(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, a lot can happen in a year: a woman can deliver a newborn; a child can learn to walk; and a small virus leaked from a lab in Wuhan, China, can go around the globe and cause a global pandemic.

While the first two are joyous, the latter, and the 1-year anniversary of the Biden administration, is nothing to celebrate. We have the highest inflation in 40 years, and you don't need a graph to show that. We see it each day when we go to fill up our tank or go to the grocery store.

We have the end of American energy independence and a plea to OPEC to increase petroleum production; record-high numbers of illegal border crossings; almost double legal immigration, with no COVID-19 testing; record-high illegal drug crossings, especially synthetic fentanyl, with record-high overdoses, especially in our young population, 18 to 45; record-high homicides and crime in blue States; a disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan, Saigon 2.0, with a loss of billions in equipment and the lives of 13 of our servicemen and -women.

The disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan has led to increased instability with Russia and China.

We have a vaccine mandate that ignores science, which shows that both the delta virus can transmit, even if vaccinated and boosted, and omicron wanes within 1 month.

My advice to this administration: End the vaccine mandate; stop what you are doing; and go on vacation.

□ 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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SUPPORTING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL FOR IRAN HOSTAGES

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

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the award of a Congressional Gold Medal to the 52 hostages of the Iran hostage crisis that were released, after 444 days of captivity, 41 years ago today.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian student militants stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took Embassy employees captive. Despite mock firing squads, beatings, solitary confinement, lack of food, and psychological torture, the American hostages maintained their strength and resilience.

Back at home, Americans remained united in their support for the hostages, many tying yellow ribbons around trees as a sign of solidarity. The former hostages have never received proper recognition from their government for their sacrifices.

This bipartisan bill is a symbol of our Nation's ability to come together to honor these American heroes. As of today, the bill has over 166 cosponsors.

Special thanks to Commission 52 and Chairman Brock Pierce for helping to gather support for the bill. It is a true public service.

PRESIDENT BIDEN DRAGGING COUNTRY BACKWARD

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this week marks 1 year of President Biden's out-of-touch, reckless, and disastrous Presidency.

The past 12 months have been filled with failure after failure, and Americans are dealing with the consequences at every corner.

From skyrocketing inflation, increased crime rates, a disastrous Afghanistan exit, an open border agenda, concerned parents labeled as domestic terrorists, and more, this administration has failed the American people.

Amidst all the crises, President Biden has spent a quarter of his first year in his Delaware basement, avoiding all responsibilities. This is unacceptable from anyone.

I came to Congress to serve the people of Texas' 25th Congressional District, and when I am back home, I hear firsthand how Texans are worse off under President Biden than ever before.

The bottom line is, a year of the Biden administration's socialist and far-left agenda has dragged our country backward, not forward.

It is time America has leaders that put America first. President Joe Biden is not that leader. He has 33 percent approval.

In God we trust.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STANTON). Members are reminded to re-

frain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CELEBRATING FEDERAL FUNDING TO EXPAND HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Federal dollars coming to the Houston area to solve the supply chain issues facing our community and to create more jobs.

Yesterday, the Biden administration announced over \$14 billion for projects that will improve our Nation's ports, waterways, and railroads. That includes \$147 million for a project to expand the Houston Ship Channel on the way to the Port of Houston.

This project will make it easier for ships to reach the docks and help more cargo move faster from the container ship to the store shelf. This will create jobs, jobs, and more jobs. This is huge for Texas, huge for Houston, and huge for the whole country.

Thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act passed by this Chamber, we are solving the real problems facing everyday Americans.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Biden and my colleagues in Congress for getting this done.

REPUBLICANS WILLING TO WORK WITH PRESIDENT BIDEN

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I listened last night to President Biden's press conference, and I was disappointed that he felt the Republicans did not want to work with him.

I would like to open the door, first of all, to working together to balance the budget. We don't consider it a goal of ours to race to get to \$30 trillion in debt.

Please, Mr. Biden, convene a group of Republicans and Democrats. Let's work together to balance the budget.

Secondly, prior to you taking office, it was routine that about 20,000 people per month came across the border. Now, we are at over 80,000.

I secondly ask that we convene a bipartisan group to get back down to 20,000 a month to cross the border.

Finally, at the time President Trump was President, he was given a cocktail which cured his COVID illness almost immediately. That cocktail should be available to all Americans.

I, again, encourage a joint conference with us to get together and cure the people who get COVID.

Finally, Mr. President, stop being so divisive and screaming racism right and left. It does no good for this body to constantly call racism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

IMPROVING MERRILL AND RING CREEK BRIDGE

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, people have been traveling across the Merrill and Ring Creek Bridge in Everett, Washington, since Herbert Hoover was President of the United States.

Every day, residents drive, walk, pedal, and roll across the bridge to get to and from work and school in Everett and to catch a ferry in Mukilteo. Commuters on Everett Transit's route 18 bus rely on the bridge to access Sounder commuter rail and Amtrak service at Everett Station.

However, a recent assessment revealed the bridge is not only structurally deficient; it is vulnerable to collapse in the event of an earthquake. Thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure law, Washington communities will receive more than \$605 million over the next 5 years to invest in critical bridge repairs.

Last week, Everett officials took me across the Merrill and Ring Creek Bridge and told me how this bold, long-term investment will create jobs, drive economic recovery, and keep people on the move.

Mr. Speaker, you cannot have a big-league economy with little-league infrastructure. Thanks to the bipartisan infrastructure law, communities in my district now have the resources needed to repair aging bridges and build a winning game plan for the region's economic future.

RECOGNIZING STETSON BENNETT

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize one of the First District's finest, quarterback Stetson Bennett of the Georgia Bulldogs.

Football is filled with stories of triumph, tribulation, and heart. The saga of Stetson Bennett has now cemented itself as one of those great stories that football fans will talk about for generations.

Hailing from Blackshear, Georgia, in Pierce County, Stetson Bennett grew up with a dream and a drive to turn that dream into reality.

As a young quarterback at Pierce County High School, Stetson was able to accumulate 3,700 passing yards, 500 rushing yards, and 40 touchdowns, along with Class 3A second team all-State honors.

Despite his accomplishments, Stetson was overlooked by many top football programs, but he never gave up the dream and walked on at the University of Georgia.

Following his freshman year, he chose to transfer to a junior college,