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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 12, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARREN SOTO 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:

Eternal God, throughout human history You have acted on our behalf, defended us against our enemies, saved us from our own sinfulness. And like those who have gone before us, we have failed to appreciate the mercy You have afforded us from the beginning of time.

Show us the writing on the wall. Our days are numbered. It doesn't matter whether we are counting the days of our life, or the time in our current vocations, You have determined the days we are given to serve You.

May we not be found wanting, having fallen short of the part we play in Your gracious design.

May we instead look to all that You have done for us, all that You have promised, and remember how blessed we are.

May we respond with full hearts and willing spirits, in our attitudes and actions, living lives worthy of Your mercy.

May we speak Your truth in our every word with our colleagues and constituents, as to the stranger and to the estranged.

And may we reflect to the world Your steadfast love to those around us, the poor and needy, the offensive and the irascible, friend and foe.

Holy God, make our lives count in the economy of Your grace. 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 gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROBERT CHISOLM

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

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Robert Chisolm, an American hero who passed away peacefully on January 4, 2022, after a lifetime of service to our country and to El Paso.

Lieutenant Colonel Chisolm served in the Army in World War II, the Korean

war, and the Vietnam war. He was a paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne Division when he parachuted into combat in Normandy, France, on D-day, a day that liberated Western Europe from Nazi rule.

He was also recognized in 2012 by the French Government and awarded the French Legion of Honor medal.

After 29 years of faithful service, he retired from the military and settled in El Paso, Texas, with his wife, Margaret. Lieutenant Colonel Chisolm helped create a community for local veterans as a founding member of the Benavidez-Patterson All Airborne Chapter of the 82nd Airborne Division Association, which awards scholarships to the children and grandchildren of paratroopers.

May Lieutenant Colonel Robert Chisolm's legacy of devotion to our country, his fellow veterans, and his unwavering commitment to service continue to inspire us all.

HONORING THE CAREER OF COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR JOHN F. SAMPA

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to the distinguished and exceptional career of my friend, Command Sergeant Major John F. Sampa, the retiring Command Sergeant Major of the Army National Guard.

It is one of my greatest honors and privilege to have served with then-Sergeant John Sampa when I was a lieutenant with Bravo Company 4th Battalion 112th Armor, in Rosenberg, Texas. He mentored and advised countless soldiers and airmen throughout his career.

His rise to the highest enlisted rank in the National Guard was not by chance. Command Sergeant Major

□ 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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Sampa is an extremely talented and competent noncommissioned officer who led by example, outworked his peers, and always took care of his troops.

Along with the citizens from the great State of Texas, and the Army National Guard soldiers throughout the country, I wish Command Sergeant Major John Sampa a well-deserved retirement. He has served his neighbors, State, and country well.

I wish John, his wife Carlette; son, John; and daughter, Julia, all the best in their future endeavors.

COMMEMORATING KOREAN-AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Korean-American Day. I am proud to represent the largest Korean-American population of any congressional district in the country.

Tomorrow we recognize the 119th anniversary of the arrival of the first Korean immigrants to the United States, and the recognition that they have contributed to the life and well-being of the people of the United States for so many years.

One person that is an example of that is Erin Pak, who leads the Kheir Center, a community health center in Los Angeles. During the pandemic, they kept their doors open, taking care of anybody who needed help; everything from testing, to vaccine boosters, to people who are Korean, Latino, it didn't matter their background. But their doors were open during the toughest times.

It is with that kind of commitment that Korean Americans have really made not only L.A. a better place to live, but the United States a better place to live.

So I urge my colleagues to support my resolution to recognize the ideals of Korean-American Day and the essential contributions of Korean Americans to American life.

OPPOSITION TO PROXY VOTING

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, there is no substitute for conducting the business of the American people in person.

On Monday, 80 members of the majority voted "present" by proxy. This is one of the most asinine things that has become commonplace under one-party rule by the majority.

Have House Democrats become so averse to work that they now believe voting from their couches is a viable option?

Mr. Speaker, it is time to end proxy voting once and for all. It is one of the many blemishes that have been put on this great body under one-party rule.

If the current majority won't end proxy voting, Republicans will snuff it out entirely when we take back the House. It is past time to get back to work.

CONGRATULATIONS TO STARBUCKS WORKERS UNITED

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, from the steel mills to the auto plants, Buffalo and Western New York are communities that respect hard work and have a long and strong record of leading and supporting the labor movement.

That tradition continues with local Starbucks workers. Despite pressure tactics and roadblocks, they were successful in their bid to organize unions at Starbucks locations in Buffalo and Cheektowaga, New York.

This weekend, I was proud to stand with the Starbucks Elmwood employees who were fighting for better working conditions.

Today, I recognize the efforts of all workers who show courage and solidarity in their fight for fair wages and working conditions.

Every social movement in America started from the ground up, from people with passion and vision to demand better for their workplace, for their community, and for our collective future.

Congratulations to Starbucks Workers United. Your organizing achievement is a victory for many and an inspiration to all.

ANOTHER YEAR OF DISRUPTED LEARNING

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, more than one million students started 2022 with closed schools: another year of disrupted learning.

In Chicago, more than 300,000 kids spent 4 days locked out of their classrooms. This is the same Chicago that received nearly \$2 billion from the Democrats' so-called COVID relief bill to keep schools open.

We have an education and a mental health crisis on our hands. Every student who is trapped behind a screen knows it. Every mom and dad who is anxious about another year of last-minute closures know it. Even Democrat mayors and voters know it.

And yet, President Biden said yesterday, America is on the "right track" with regard to the pandemic.

Mr. President, in what world is this considered the right track?

Disrupted learning means we are leaving behind a generation of struggling students. It might be the single most destructive policy imposed on our children this century. The negative consequences can last a lifetime.

The only question we have now is, how do we save our kids from more disruption to their education in the days and weeks to come?

The President of the United States could have gone to Chicago or any of the 5,400 schools that started off this year closed to send a clear signal that kids belong in the classroom.

Instead, he was in Atlanta yesterday delivering a speech that was so self-serving and out-of-touch that even Stacey Abrams kept her distance.

But I have a simple principle that every parent knows well: Our kids' education is not dispensable. Their futures are not dispensable. I believe that as a parent, as a lawmaker, and as an American citizen, and I know every House Republican believes it, too.

We must be a society that pushes to do the best we can for the next generation, a society that finally achieves the goal of allowing every kid in every neighborhood to go to the school that their parents believe is best for them.

House Republicans will work to make sure our children are the national priority they should be, even if this administration and House Democrats won't.

RECOGNIZING SOUTH METRO FIRE RESCUE

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

Mr. CROW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their bravery and professionalism in combating the devastating Marshall fire that swept across Boulder County.

As we prepared to ring in the new year, Colorado experienced the most destructive wildfire in its history. Faced with hurricane-level winds that fueled rapid spread, our very own South Metro firefighters jumped into action. They sacrificed time with family during the holidays and put their lives on the line to protect thousands of homes, save countless lives, and make our community proud.

Rising temperatures and prolonged drought have made wildfires a part of everyday life in Colorado. As Coloradans inevitably face similar challenges in the coming years, I am grateful to have the heroes at South Metro representing and protecting our community.

I am honored to recognize the members of South Metro Fire Rescue for their service to our community and thank them for inspiring a hope in our future, a hope that together we can face the challenges of this new future head-on.

COVID-19 TESTING SHORTAGE

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