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No. 159

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 30, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Guest Chaplain, the Reverend Lisa Wink Schultz, Office of the Senate Chaplain, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, maker of Heaven and Earth, at Your word, the sea was created. Your hand formed the sand as a boundary for the sea. We praise You for Your magnificent, breathtaking creation.

We remember when You caused the storm to be still so that the waves of the sea were hushed.

We ask that You calm Hurricane Ian and have mercy to all in its path.

Give wisdom to our lawmakers, especially those who represent the State of Florida.

Heal what has been broken, restore and comfort the faint, and give peace to all who work in this Chamber.

We pray in Your merciful name.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ADDRESSING INNER-CITY GUN VIOLENCE

(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, on Tuesday, as they were leaving football practice at Roxborough High School in Philadelphia, five teenage boys were shot. Four survived the horrific shooting, but 14-year-old Nicolas Elizalde was killed. God bless him.

Earlier that day, I stood with Representative SCANLON, the Giffords organization, and the community to advocate for gun violence prevention. One of the advocates in our audience was a grandmother like me. Only hours later, it was her grandson, Nicolas, who was gunned down leaving football practice.

I cannot imagine her pain. Nicolas is the 23rd child to be shot and murdered in Philadelphia this year.

There is a frightening trend of far too many illicit guns ending up in the hands of teenagers. This must end.

We need serious solutions, not finger-pointing, to address inner-city gun violence. We cannot simply out-police

loose gun laws that contribute to teenagers getting their hands on guns and murdering one another.

So, while this may be the final day of our session, I will not stop working on this issue. I will be sending a letter to ATF requesting an increased focus on ending the pipeline of guns to our children's hands.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL DEPRESSION AND MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING MONTH

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize October as National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month and next week as Mental Illness Awareness Week.

National Depression and Mental Health Screening Month is aimed to raise awareness of the need for accessible mental health screenings and to provide support to people facing mental health conditions, ensuring that they don't feel alone.

The National Alliance of Mental Illness study found that one in five people in Iowa navigates the reality of living with a mental health condition. Mental health affects everyone, and it is important that Congress implements legislation to support Americans who are struggling.

I am proud of the work that Congress and the FCC have done to implement the 988 crisis hotline, which has changed the 10-digit hotline to a 3-digit number that everyone can remember.

The hotline provides immediate support around the clock, but Congress can and should do more. I hope my colleagues will take this month to reflect on our current system and think of ways we can expand mental health resources, perhaps changing it to brain health.

□ 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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In working together to address brain health, we can save countless lives.

CREATING SAFER COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA

(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, I rise to celebrate the work Democrats are doing to create safer communities across America. Living safely should not be determined by your ZIP Code, your ethnicity, or your salary.

That is why, last week, Democrats passed four public safety bills, including:

The Invest to Protect Act, which helps local police departments with less than 125 officers to hire additional officers;

The Mental Health Justice Act, which provides for training of mental health professionals to respond to mental health crises;

The Break the Cycle of Violence Act, which provides grant dollars for neighborhood crime prevention programs; and

The VICTIM Act, which allows us to hire and train more detectives to investigate violent crimes.

Keeping families safe by putting people first and putting people over politics is what Democrats do.

PANDEMIC IS OVER

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, "The pandemic is over." That is what President Biden declared in an interview on "60 Minutes."

OSHA clearly hasn't gotten the memo, or it wouldn't be attempting to revive a COVID-19 emergency temporary standard, ETS, regarding healthcare workers and seeking to make it permanent.

Our healthcare industry is strained enough as it is without the Biden administration demanding additional burdensome COVID-19 requirements. This regulation is a perfect example of the left's hypocrisy.

President Biden can't have it both ways, pretending there is a permanent pandemic when he wants to further his own emergency powers and declaring it is over when he wants to tout his accomplishments.

It is time to let our medical professionals work in peace instead of having to jump through these unnecessary hoops. After all, the President said it himself: "The pandemic is over."

HONORING WILLIAM "BILL" LUNA

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor Lieutenant Colonel William Luna. He passed away on August 8 of this year and played a significant role in Chicago's Mexican Independence Day Parade for several years.

Born Guillermo Luna, he was raised in East Chicago, Indiana, by his aunt after his parents passed away.

William was a patriot, an educator, and an active member of the community. He was a Green Beret and jumpmaster who served our country in the U.S. Army's 2nd Airborne 505 Infantry and later joined the Army Reserves.

His passion for boxing earned him the U.S. Golden Gloves boxing championship in 1958.

Bill was a fierce advocate for the recognition of the contributions of Latinos, particularly Mexican Americans, in the military.

A lover of history and education, Bill earned a master's degree in English and later became an adjunct professor of Mexican history and minority studies at the Indiana University Northwest.

His knowledge of Mexican-American history led Chicago's Channel 7 to invite Bill to be a cohost of the Mexican Independence Day Parade broadcast for 7 years.

We will always remember him. Rest in peace, Lieutenant Colonel William "Bill" Luna.

POLICY FAILURES CAUSE WILDFIRES

(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, residents in forested areas shouldn't have to be worried about catastrophic wildfires every single year.

Wildfires are part of California's landscape and have been for centuries, but they occur less frequently and are better mitigated with healthy forests. They are less bad.

Denouncing wildfires as solely a consequence of climate change is flat-out false. We are seeing more and more of these giant wildfires due to decades of policy failures that have allowed our forests to become built up with overgrown brush and dried-out, decaying wood, aka fire fuel.

On top of that, environmental regulations make it near impossible to clear that overgrowth, thin trees, or create bulldozer lines for fire breaks near towns or create large buffers around power lines and roads as needed.

So, instead, what do we get? The Los Angeles Times comes up to my district and basically says we shouldn't be there. People should not live in these rural forests because of climate change.

Well, I want to know who is going to do the work to bring you your wood products, your paper products; if no-

body lives up there to do the work to thin the forest, to put the fire out, to make it where you can do tourism there?

Who is going to do that if you kick us out of rural areas and make us live in places like L.A. with all the trash and other things like that? Yeah, I wonder.

RECOGNIZING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

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

Ms. MANNING. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share my appreciation for local law enforcement officers in my community and across the country.

I recognize the sacrifices these brave men and women make every day to keep our communities safe, but words of praise and gratitude are never enough. I am proud to say I have backed up my words with action.

Last week, I voted to pass a package of bills that support our police officers and increase public safety. Investing in our officers is critical to protecting our communities.

We can increase public safety by ensuring that law enforcement agencies are well trained to de-escalate dangerous situations, respond to mental health and domestic violence emergencies properly, and make sure that the right channels are in place to uphold justice for all.

That is why I voted to pass the Invest to Protect Act. This legislation will provide Federal grants to smaller law enforcement agencies like those in my district to recruit, retain, and train good, accountable officers.

To the police officers and first responders in my community: Thank you for the work you do to protect North Carolina's Sixth District.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF KENT R. HANCE

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Madam Speaker, on November 14, the proudest Dimmitt Bobcat, biggest Texas Tech fan, and the legendary west Texas leader Kent R. Hance turns 80 years old.

I wish my dear friend and former boss the happiest of birthdays and thank him for his tremendous and matchless service, leadership, and love for the people, values, and spirit of west Texas.

He strengthened the Lone Star State as a Texas Senator. He helped Reagan pass the tax cuts of 1986 as a U.S. Congressman. He unleashed energy independence in Texas as chairman of the energy commission. As the Texas Tech chancellor, we saw unprecedented growth in endowment, enrollment, and research.

God blessed west Texas, and He broke the mold with Kent R. Hance.