

Aside from giving everyone an excuse to channel their inner child, *Star Wars* Day also promotes literacy, science, technology, engineering, and math in a fun and exciting atmosphere that captivates young minds.

Joliet was also the backdrop for the 1980 classic film, *The Blues Brothers*, which features Joliet Jake and Elwood leaving the Old Joliet Prison at the beginning of the movie.

That is why I was, as Elwood says in the film, “on a mission from God” to help secure the \$3 million for the Old Joliet Prison to repair and rehabilitate this cultural and historical landmark for generations to enjoy, as well as to benefit what seems to be an endless stream of German tourists who stop by the prison, take a selfie in front of it on the way down the historic Route 66 corridor that travels through the Joliet area.

And just this past August, the entire community came together to watch Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi perform at the Old Joliet Prison.

Joliet has accomplished many things of national significance, as well, including being chosen as the site for what will be the largest manufacturing plant for electric school buses in North America, and which recently started production.

One of my greatest priorities in Congress was securing funding for the Joliet’s Brandon Road Lock and Dam, which is currently the last line of defense in preventing invasive Asian Carp from reaching Lake Michigan and all of the lakes and tributaries of the Great Lakes Basin.

We worked for many years to fast-track this funding, and thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Army Corps of Engineers finally has the resources it needs to begin construction on this project to help protect Illinois waterways and every lake and tributary in the entire Great Lakes Basin.

Just this past year, I was proud to secure over \$8 million of community project funding for various projects in Joliet, including \$3.5 million to support the work being done to replace aging service lines in our plumbing, including lead lines, so that every resident in the Joliet area has access to safe drinking water.

These are just two of the many projects in Joliet that I have had the honor of working on throughout the years. What is more important is all that Joliet has given the Chicago suburbs.

The Blues Brothers’ concert at the Old Joliet Prison was a fitting camp to wrap up my time in Joliet and one that represents one of the many reasons why I will miss representing the city in Congress so much.

Madam Speaker, I take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Joliet area for sending me to Congress on your behalf. It has been an honor of a lifetime serving you and making your communities a better place for future generations.

#### CONTINUE FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH THROUGH ADVERSITY

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to emphasize the importance of long-term and reliable funding for scientific projects, especially when the going gets tough.

During my years as a scientist, I was involved in building of giant particle accelerators to smash protons and antiprotons together to make particles that have not been around since the Big Bang. Back in August of 2019, I was honored to speak at the 10th anniversary of the National Ignition Facility, which at the time had achieved all of its technical goals but was frustrated by scientific uncertainties and was struggling with neutron yields on the order of 10 to the 16th.

The point that I made and the point that I am making today is that it is important to continue fundamental research even when the going gets tough.

#### BRENNIK SAPP AWARDED FOR HIS GOOD DEEDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to applaud Brennik Sapp of Liberty Elementary School for his commitment to helping his community.

When Brennik was an infant, he spent 12 days at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital in Iowa City when he was diagnosed at birth with Hirschsprung’s disease. This is an intestinal disease that is present at birth and that can lead to death.

Thanks to the excellent doctors at the hospital, Brennik’s life was saved, but he will always have to manage life with the disease.

Brennik did not let this disease deter him. Rather, he made it his mission to help other children who have chronic illnesses.

Last year alone, Brennik raised over \$2,000 for the University of Iowa Stead Family Children’s Hospital in Iowa City. This money was used to buy books for children who are undergoing hospitalization and treatment.

Brennik’s selflessness did not go unnoticed by his community. The American Legion recently awarded Brennik with the Good Deed Award, which is gifted to youth who serve as an inspiration for their community.

I thank Brennik for everything that he is doing for children across Iowa. I am proud to represent youth who are making a difference in their community.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o’clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

Give ear to our words, O Lord. Consider the meditations of our hearts. Give heed to our voices, our king and our God, for to You do we pray.

We speak to You from the depths of our hearts, words of personal need and unspoken desires. You alone know what concerns us. You alone are our counsel in our perplexity. Give ear to our unuttered words, O Lord. Be considerate of our private contemplations.

We lift our voices, in these Chambers and in our communities, voices of passion and purpose. Remind us, O God, that ultimately, it is before You we are to speak our peace. To You should we make our appeals. Give heed to our voices, for You are our sovereign and God. You alone will receive our prayers.

In all that we do and say, may we reorder our lives, our intentions, and even our opinions that they would be united with Your will and serve as echoes of Your love for Your people.

With joy we receive Your many blessings. And in gratitude we pray in Your matchless name.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day’s proceedings and announces to the Chamber her approval thereof.

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

#### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: I write to inform you of my resignation, effective December 9, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. PST, as United States Representative for the 37th Congressional District of California.

Attached is a copy of the letter I submitted to the Governor of California.

It has been an honor to serve the people of California's 33rd and 37th Districts, and I greatly appreciate their trust in me over these last twelve years. I also appreciate the faith and fellowship of my colleagues. I am enormously proud of what we have accomplished by working together to address real issues that impact the people who sent us all here to Congress. We have not always agreed, but our greatest achievements have come when we were able to set aside our differences and find common ground.

The issues that face us have not been small, but neither has our resolve. Our conversations have not always been comfortable, and the solutions before us have not always been easy, but we have not been deterred. I hope in the next Congress that we will continue to see real efforts to legislate and to improve lives.

It is not without sadness that I announce my resignation. I know I leave behind much work to be done. But I am proud to be called home and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as Mayor of Los Angeles. I am also proud of the young colleagues I leave behind. The future of public service is bright.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS,  
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2022.

Hon. GAVIN NEWSOM,  
Governor of California,  
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR GOVERNOR NEWSOM: I write to inform you of my resignation, effective December 9, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. PST, as United States Representative for the 37th Congressional District of California.

Sincerely,

KAREN BASS,  
Member of Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS), the whole number of the House is 431.

#### HONORING L.G. RAUN

(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 honor a good friend and a great leader for American agriculture, Mr. L.G. Raun.

L.G. and his lovely bride, Linda, are rice farmers from El Campo, Texas, a third-generation family farm. Both have very capably and faithfully served the U.S. rice industry all their lives in varying degrees of leadership within USA Rice.

L.G. recently completed his term as president of the Southwest Council of Agribusiness, a highly respected consortium of farm and ranch organizations, agricultural lenders, and allied businesses serving Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Although L.G.'s term as president of the Southwest Council is concluding, I am confident that he and Linda's role

in service to American agriculture will carry on, and all of agriculture will be better for it.

I often say, agricultural policy doesn't just impact farm families like the Rauns, but it impacts every American and everyone who eats. These are critical matters, and the Rauns deserve a lot of credit for helping us get it right.

Thank you, L.G., for your strong leadership and your friendship.

#### CONTINUING BABY FORMULA SHORTAGE

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

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, while the baby formula shortage no longer draws as many headlines, parents are still suffering as a third of American families still struggle to find baby formula, according to recent Census Bureau statistics.

Countless parents are still searching store after store in hopes of finding formula to feed their children. That is unacceptable. Parents deserve both solutions and answers.

Months ago, the Energy and Commerce Committee unanimously advanced my resolution calling for the Biden administration to release documents related to the recall of infant formula and potential impacts on the infant formula supply chain.

Let me reiterate. This was passed unanimously in committee with support from both sides of the aisle. I am urging the Speaker and Democrat leadership to allow a full vote on this resolution immediately.

We need to hold the administration accountable and ensure that this level of failure never happens again.

#### RECOGNIZING APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI TEACHERS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, for the sixth consecutive year, Appalachian State University has led the entire Nation in the number of alumni who have become National Board Certified Teachers.

Indeed, this is a monumental feat. This accolade not only speaks to the caliber of Appalachian State's alumni, but also to the university's commitment to prepare talented individuals who will go on to make a profound impact upon our society.

Under the steadfast leadership of Chancellor Sheri Everts, and thanks to the dedication of countless members of this university, Appalachian State's excellence continues to be recognized on the national stage.

Congratulations to Appalachian State, the Reich College of Education, and its many alumni on this wonderful accomplishment.

#### CONTINUING INFLATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, the Christmas season is a time for families across America to be joyous. However, due to irresponsible policies of Biden and Democrats, inflation has reached 40-year highs.

The Thanksgiving meal was particularly tough on the wallet, but now with Christmas, prices continue to be unbearable. Even the cost of a Christmas tree is expected to rise 15 percent.

According to a recent survey by RetailMeNot, more than half of holiday shoppers plan to make fewer purchases due to higher prices.

Average national costs have increased. Airfare is up 42 percent, public transportation up 28 percent, gas up 17 percent, food up 12 percent.

I was grateful this weekend for a day-long visit to Kyiv in Ukraine. The people of Ukraine, with Poland and Germany, are courageous for liberty and rule of law.

In the tradition of the American Revolution, they understand: Don't tread on me. Appeal unto Heaven. Live free or die.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from Afghanistan's safe haven to America.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WILD) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 9, 2022.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,  
The Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 9, 2022, at 10:44 a.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2333.  
That the Senate passed S. 2834.  
That the Senate passed S. 4216.  
That the Senate passed S. 5229.  
That the Senate passed S. 5230.  
That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 310.

That the Senate passed with an amendment H.R. 7535.

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of Alan R. Parker, former Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Committee on Indian Affairs of the Senate S. Res. 867.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
Clerk.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair