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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend Dr. William J. Barber, II, Greenleaf Christian Church, Goldsboro, North Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Merciful God, help us submit ourselves to the truth of Your word, knowing that what we do only matters and lasts if it is rooted in love for Your glory.

Remind us that You are the God who can melt clouds of sin and sadness away. And You, O God, can bring down rulers from temporal and finite thrones. We are thankful that You are also the same God who lifts the humble. Remind and strengthen us to do the same with whatever power we have.

By Your spirit, don't let us forget that Your mercy for all those who fear You is real. Remind us that to fear You is to align our public deeds with Jesus, the one who declares, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me to preach good news to the poor"; the incarnate one who said to feed the hungry, heal the sick, care for the least of these, welcome the immigrant.

To fear You is to align with the prophets who taught us to never rob the poor of their rights, and to ensure that workers get their just pay.

Help us to live out Your vision of love, joy, and justice until we can truly sing as though we believe that You, O God, rule the world with truth and grace, and You, O God, make the nations prove the glories of Your righteousness, the glory of Your justice as far as the curse is found.

Help us, O God, and hear our prayer, O Lord.  
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 of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. TAKANO 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.

### WELCOMING REVEREND DR. WILLIAM J. BARBER II

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Madam Speaker, the House is honored today to welcome a great theologian and humanitarian, my friend and constituent, the distinguished William J. Barber, II.

I have known Bishop Barber since he was a college student. A native of Roper, North Carolina, Bishop Barber has dedicated his life to preaching God's word of salvation and embracing the least of these in civil society.

Bishop Barber's trajectory to national prominence began when he organized a multiracial, multigenerational social justice movement in Raleigh, North Carolina, to expose the racial and economic inequities facing our Nation.

The Moral Monday protests catapulted Bishop Barber to a place where he is now a nationally recognized voice for the poor. As the founder of Repairers of the Breach, Bishop Barber leads a movement that challenges systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation, and what he calls the distorted narrative of religious nationalism. Bishop Barber seeks to build an

agenda rooted in love, justice, and morality.

Bishop Barber is the senior pastor of the Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro, North Carolina. He and his wife, Rebecca, have five very accomplished children who have distinguished themselves in their respective fields.

We are honored today, Madam Speaker, to have Bishop Barber with us today to pray over this sacred institution that we call the House of Representatives.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

### PACT ACT

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

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, earlier this year, President Biden called on Congress to comprehensively address the effects of toxic exposure in our veterans.

My bipartisan Honoring our PACT Act is the largest expansion of VA benefits in a generation.

Now that it is the law, the United States is finally recognizing toxic exposure as a cost of war.

Earlier this year, VA announced that it will immediately begin processing PACT Act benefits claims for eligible terminally ill veterans.

These developments would not have been possible without the work between Congress, House Democrats, and the Biden-Harris administration, and for our commitment to follow through on our promise to deliver healthcare

□ 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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and benefits to America's toxic-exposed veterans.

I encourage veterans to visit VA.gov/PACT for more information on PACT Act benefits.

Madam Speaker, and may I add that Bishop Barber, our guest chaplain today, along with our Speaker, were instrumental in including Camp Lejeune as part of the PACT Act, and I know that America is grateful for this justice to be done.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF SENATOR PAT ENGEL

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today, I join Representative MIKE FLOOD to honor the life and service of former Nebraska State Senator Pat Engel, whom we served alongside during our time in the Nebraska Legislature.

Born in South Sioux City, Nebraska, Pat was a man of faith who applied his sharp mind to a life of service to his community and never stopped serving.

After his early military career concluded with Active Duty as an Air Force intelligence officer stationed in Germany, he chose to return with his young family to South Sioux City. There, as a prolific volunteer, he earned a reputation for his good nature and compassion for others as he served on two local school boards, numerous volunteer organizations, and as Dakota County commissioner.

In his 16 years in the legislature, Pat defined what it is to be a public servant. He was well liked. He had a special gift to work and connect with anyone, and I will always remember his cheerful way, even when issues were difficult. He was known for bringing people together.

Pat and his wife, Dee, were married for almost 68 years and had five children. Family, community, and love for his home State meant the world to Pat. He will be missed.

#### POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN CALIFORNIA STATEWIDE

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I first thank Bishop Barber for that very powerful prayer for our Nation.

Today, the Poor People's Campaign's California Statewide Convening will uplift the launch of the California-led campaign for the Third Reconstruction resolution called Close the Wealth Gap, California.

Extreme poverty affects over 20 million people in California. This is a moral disgrace.

As written in House Resolution 438, the Third Reconstruction, we need the moral resolve to pass laws and policies

that fully address interlocking injustices, which have only deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This country was founded on the moral commitment to ensure domestic tranquility, promote general welfare, and secure liberty and justice for all.

It is time we realize a Third Reconstruction to build an equitable, thriving, and resilient economy from the bottom up.

That is why I am calling on my colleagues to have the political will to make permanent the child tax credit. The most recent poverty data show that policy decisions like the temporary CTC, income support, and nutrition assistance cut the national child poverty rate nearly in half in 2021. This demonstrates that poverty is a policy choice and there is no excuse for poverty in America.

Madam Speaker, everyone deserves to live a life free from socioeconomic policies that are punitive and destructive to their families.

#### MEDICARE PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE

(Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise to address an impending disaster that is about to face patient care in this country.

Not just 2 years ago in this country, physicians were hailed as heroes for risking their lives to save others during the pandemic. Now, when other professions are being given large raises, doctors are facing double digit Medicare cuts beginning in January.

As a surgeon of 30 years, I can say without a doubt that these cuts will either force practices to close or severely restrict the number of Medicare patients who will be seen. The constant attack on physicians who see Medicare patients has to stop.

At present, the cost of seeing a Medicare patient exceeds its reimbursement. That is why most internal medicine practices will not see new Medicare patients.

The constant threat to Medicare needs to stop. We have a growing and aging population. We need to provide some certainty to doctors and hospitals if they are going to be able to plan to take care of these Medicare patients.

Madam Speaker, we cannot end this session without a Medicare fix.

#### CELEBRATING GALENA PARK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

(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 Galena Park Independent School District's very own North Shore High School football team for their second trip in a row to the Texas State Championship.

Located in my district, the North Shore Senior High School is home to a group of standout athletes and students, both academically and athletically.

Through their hard work and preservation, our local stars will now play against Duncanville High School for a chance to defend their State championship.

I am truly so proud of all their accomplishments both on and off the field. They embody Texas' spirit of excellence and go-get-'em spirit.

Stay focused and play strong, Mustangs, because all of Galena Park in the Houston region is rooting for you this Saturday.

Best wishes and God bless.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CROWE PEELE

(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 celebrate the life of Crowe Peele, an NCAA boxing champion at LSU.

Born in Fayetteville, North Carolina, in 1934, Crowe made a name for himself in the Golden Gloves program where he was a four-time champion. He boxed twice in the National Golden Gloves Tournament in New York City and while in New York, Crowe lost two matches. Out of 64 pre-college bouts, these were his only two losses.

Crowe boxed for 2 years at LSU, winning Southeastern Conference and Sugar Bowl titles as a freshman in 1954 before repeating as conference champ in 1955.

During his sophomore year at LSU, Crowe won the top title in collegiate boxing, the NCAA Championship. This made him college boxing's premier heavyweight champion.

After winning the title, Crowe decided to leave amateur boxing and enter the professional arena. As a professional, Crowe had a record of 16-5, with wins in his first 14 fights and knockouts in his first 10. He fought on cards with Sugar Ray Robinson and Archie Moore.

After his retirement from boxing, Crowe settled in Baton Rouge with his wife, Betty, and started a family while operating service stations around the city.

He is survived by four children, including his daughter, Nancy, who proudly continued her father's legacy of service, professionalism, and dedication here in the House of Representatives.

□ 0915

#### RECOGNIZING STAFF DIRECTOR RUSSELL ANELLO

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)