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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:

In this holiday season, O generous One, may our eyes be open to the abundance of blessings You have bestowed on us. As we spend time with family and friends, may we appreciate the gifts they truly are to us—companions in life, counselors in perplexity, comrades in adventures.

As we celebrate religious holidays and traditional festivities, cause us to discover the less obvious reasons to rejoice: the return home of an estranged son or daughter; the coherence, albeit fleeting, of a loved one lost to dementia; the exhilaration of a favorite family board game.

With these blessings and delights before us, may we acknowledge our responsibility to foster these fellowships throughout the year, to cultivate and cherish the moments we have been given, and to own up to our commitments to the flourishing of these relationships.

We are those to whom much has been given. May we meet the expectations that attend these blessings.

By Your grace, and in Your merciful name, we pray.

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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF LUPE FRAGA

(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 honor the legacy of a local Houston legend, the late Lupe Fraga.

Lupe Fraga, known affectionately as "Champ" was a community legend who grew up in Houston's East End in my district.

Over the decades, Champ became known as a pioneer in the Latino business community, a dedicated public servant, and an honorable veteran who served in the United States Army.

Champ founded Tejas Office Products in 1962 to provide Houstonians with high-quality and affordable office supplies.

As a businessowner, he also supported local school supply drives and helped support minority-owned businesses in our region.

He eventually served on the Houston branch of the Federal Reserve Bank, was a regent at the Texas A&M University, and a member and director of the Houston Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Champ was one of Houston's best. He was a true leader. Champ and his friendly smile will be missed by everyone. My condolences and best wishes to his family as they put him to rest in Houston today.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF JERRY BROOKS

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Jerry Brooks, the chief of the Clemmons Volunteer Fire Department in Forsyth County, North Carolina. At the end of this month, Jerry will be retiring after 51 years of service to the Clemmons community.

Everyone who knows Jerry can attest to the caliber of his character, his unwavering servant's heart, and his profound love for our great country.

Since the September 11 attacks, Jerry has led the Clemmons Volunteer Fire Department in honoring those who lost their lives that day by displaying a magnificent 40- by 60-foot American flag every year.

Madam Speaker, I consider Jerry Brooks to be a true patriot in every sense of the word.

I congratulate Jerry on his well-earned retirement. May God bless him, his wonderful wife, Karen, and his entire family as he enters this next chapter of his life.

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

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

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the people's House for one final time.

It is hard to sum up the lessons that I have learned over my decades of service in 1 minute, so instead, I would just like to say thank you.

□ 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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Thank you to the 13th District of Illinois for allowing me to represent you for the last 10 years.

Thank you to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who were willing to work together to make life better for our constituents.

Thank you to my hard-working staff over the years who have been in the trenches alongside me.

Thank you to the dedicated men and women who serve our legislative branch and keep our House operations running.

Thank you to our brave Capitol Police who saved my life on more than one occasion.

Thank you to my kids, Toryn, Griffin, and Clark, and my best friend in the world, my wife, Shannon, for going on this journey with me all these years.

While I will no longer be a Member of Congress come January, I will continue to be this institution's biggest advocate and know that the great work will continue because of all of you.

So as I leave, I would like to offer some advice to the incoming freshmen. My friend Lee Brice sings in one of his best songs "Love Like Crazy": "Don't outsmart your common sense."

I hope I remembered every time that I got in front of a microphone here or in a committee hearing that I had these words come to my head sung by one of the greatest rock bands ever, Nickelback: "These five words in my head, scream, are we having fun yet?"

So thank you, Congress. It has been an honor.

I yield back for the very last time.

AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, during a telephone townhall, a woman in my district asked what Congress was planning to do about the cost of her fuel bills. She could no longer afford to heat her home, and she has been forced to use a wood stove just to maintain a normal temperature in her home.

The temperature in my hometown in Altoona, Pennsylvania, tomorrow night will be 1 degree Fahrenheit.

For months, we have warned of constituents being unable to heat their homes when truly cold nights come this winter. And guess what, now they are here, and the Biden administration has still refused to act.

President Biden has refused to slash red tape and get pipelines and liquid natural gas facilities online that could address these soaring energy prices.

That is why we need to enact in Congress our Commitment to America and return not only to energy independence but to energy dominance.

We as Republicans will cut through government regulation. We will work to solve permitting reform, and we will finally bring the change that makes it

possible to utilize the energy sources that are under the feet of my constituents.

CONGRATULATING CONGRESSMAN JAMES LANGEVIN

(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 thank, celebrate, and congratulate my dear friend and colleague, JIM LANGEVIN, who will be leaving us to enjoy his much-deserved retirement.

It has been an honor and privilege to work so closely with him for more than a decade, especially in our efforts to advance career and technical education for Americans of all ages.

We have made great strides to improve access and public awareness to the many benefits of career and technical education. By giving students the ability to explore career paths and build transferable skills, we are one step closer to developing a stronger, more skilled American workforce. I thank JIM for making such a difference in our work on that.

I send my very best wishes to JIM as he enters this next stage. I will miss our conversations, our dinners, and his presence around the Halls of Congress.

I thank JIM for his friendship and leadership over the years. He will be sincerely missed.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN BOB GIBBS

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

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our colleague and my dear friend, the Representative from Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, Congressman BOB GIBBS.

Throughout his more than 20 years of public service in both the Ohio legislature and Congress, BOB has been a steady and strong advocate for his constituents and a trusted voice on agriculture and waterway issues.

While we will miss seeing him here on Capitol Hill, I know he is looking forward to many new adventures and time spent with his grandkids back on the farm.

To his bride, Jody, get that honey-do list updated. He is all yours now.

□ 0915

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF CONSENSUS

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, as majority leader, there has been no benefit of this job that I have appreciated, very frankly, more than my magic 1 minute. I intend to take it now.

My friends on both sides of the aisle may be glad to know that this is the last time, perhaps, that I will be able to avail myself of that privilege. I intend to use this extended minute to reflect on what we have achieved together during recent years and on a principle that I am eager for us to continue to apply in the years ahead.

As Democratic Caucus vice chairman and chairman, as cochair of the Democratic Steering Committee, as Democratic whip, and as majority leader, I approach my work in leadership with one principle in mind: the psychology of consensus.

What is this psychology of consensus?

It means having a greater sense of our being in this work together than apart.

It means waking up and saying: I am on the team, the American team, privileged as citizens to serve in this body on behalf of all our fellow citizens.

It means setting out with the intention to make progress, not to block it; and it means focusing on what unites us as Americans. Democrats have put this ethos into practice to hold the party line when we needed every vote or nearly every vote. Our Members remind one another: Consider how you can be with us before deciding whether to have to vote the other way.

Let me share some examples of this success.

In 2008, President Bush asked us to take emergency action to prevent a financial catastrophe. He was joined by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Sadly, in our first effort, upon being asked by President Bush, less than one-third of the President's party was initially willing to take that action. We needed to ensure that we had enough Democratic votes to work with President Bush and the Senate to enact that legislation. And we did.

Not long after, in 2009, our economy was in free fall, the American people were struggling, and Congress was divided on how to respond. But despite that challenge, Democrats came together to pass the American Rescue and Recovery Act. That legislation set our economy on a path to recovery, saved and created millions of American jobs, and restored confidence in the American Dream.

The psychology of consensus also helped Democrats deliver a major victory for the people in 2010: the Affordable Care Act; for all Americans, irrespective of party, giving access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Although there were disagreements on the specifics of how best to reform our healthcare system to make it more accessible and affordable, we all recognized the urgent need to take action.

We worked together in good faith to secure the votes for that landmark law which made affordable health coverage attainable for 35 million more Americans, banned discriminatory practices, and dramatically slowed the growth of healthcare costs.