

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), the Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, appoints the following Senator to the Board of Visitors of the U.S. Military Academy:

The Senator from Iowa (Ms. Ernst) (At Large).

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ROSE). The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

APPRECIATION AND RECOGNITION FOR DREW KENNEDY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to recognize Drew Kennedy for his congressional staff service to the Second District of South Carolina.

Drew has been a valued team member for over 10 years, and both his contributions and presence will be missed. Upon graduating from the University of South Carolina, Drew served constituents at the Midlands' office and then moved to Washington. Drew quickly became an expert in many policy areas, advising on committee issues, preparing legislation, working on markups, and more. His competence earned him the position of deputy chief of staff.

Drew has become a respected leader among his peers and industry leaders. Our loss is the gain of the House Armed Services Committee. Multiple generations of Drew's family are appreciated, with grandparents Jane and Richard Kennedy being founders of the modern Republican majority in South Carolina, with his civic leader parents, Judge Cathy Kennedy and Dr. Attorney Rick Kennedy.

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

NATIONAL SCHOOL BREAKFAST WEEK

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, if we want America's kids to remain competitive in the 21st century, we can't just teach reading and math. We need to ensure they have healthy, nutritious food in school. Studies show keeping kids fed leads to better attendance, higher test scores, and lifelong benefits.

Last summer, Congress temporarily increased the Federal reimbursement

level schools receive for breakfast and lunch, but in the richest country in the history of the world, we can do better. This National School Breakfast Week I have introduced the Healthy Meals Help Kids Learn Act to permanently increase the reimbursement level for our children.

The next generation of Americans—our future doctors, engineers, carpenters, professors, mechanics, and more—need nutritious food to learn and to thrive. If we pass my bill, schools can make more made-from-scratch meals with more locally sourced, healthier ingredients.

It is a win-win-win for our kids, our farmers, and our future. I urge strong bipartisan support for my bill.

HONORING THE YOUNG LIFE OF DAVID JOHN CHASE

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

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of an exceptional young man, David John Chase of La Crosse, Wisconsin.

David passed away November 1 of last year at the age of 15 after a courageous 10-month battle with an aggressive form of brain cancer for which there was no cure.

Despite facing a tremendous battle, David displayed courage and compassion far beyond his years. In the midst of battling this incurable brain cancer, David was far more concerned about his family and how they were impacted by his diagnosis.

David's selflessness and care for others around him was a constant presence throughout his life. He volunteered his time at Immanuel Lutheran Church in La Crosse, Wisconsin, and hoped one day to serve in the United States military and later have a career in construction. He wanted to work with his hands and he wanted to build America. He knew at his young age that this is what he wanted to do.

Most of all, David loved his family. One of his favorite memories was hunting deer in Ettrick, Wisconsin, with his dad.

David leaves behind a legacy of bravery, selflessness, and love.

I extend my deepest condolences to David's family—his parents, Jennifer and Abraham; his grandmother, Diane, who is here in the House gallery; and his brother, Landyn, who was David's caretaker and is with his grandmother today in the gallery.

God bless David and his family, and God bless the United States of America. We will miss this young man.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GARY WASSERSON

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a fellow Pennsylvanian,

Gary Wasserson, of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

A little over a year ago following the beginning of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Gary found out that he had distant cousins in Lviv. That realization prompted him to act, and soon he was on the Poland-Ukraine border assembling a team to cross the border and bring his relatives to safety.

Gary didn't stop there.

He has helped build an entire support network coming to the aid of Ukrainians in need: assisting in the successful extraction of thousands of Ukrainians to safe havens in Poland, Slovakia, Moldova, and across Western Europe; and sending hundreds of thousands of pounds of needed aid into Ukraine. Gary recently brought a gravely injured Ukrainian soldier to the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City where he was able to receive the complex medical procedures that he urgently needed.

These are just a few examples of the profound difference that Gary, a private citizen, is making.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Gary for his compassion, for his willingness to act, and his dedication to standing with the Ukrainian people as they continue to resist this horrific war of aggression.

REPUBLICANS PRIORITIZE POLITICAL STUNTS

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, while working families are facing economic challenges, House Republicans continue to prioritize political stunts.

This week, Republicans have taken to the House floor to support efforts that disseminate extreme MAGA conspiracy theories and encourage the spread of foreign propaganda and harmful online content that undermine our democracy.

House Republicans are also using committee hearings to dehumanize the LGBTQ community—promoting hateful and dangerous rhetoric.

House Democrats will always put people over politics, and we continue to work to build on the economic gains we have made over the last 2 years.

House Democrats continue to work to lower costs and invest in America—all while reducing the Federal deficit.

It is past time for House Republicans to stop playing the politics of demonization and work for the American people and work for their interests.

ADD SOY

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of my ADD SOY Act. This bill makes soy milk available to children who need alternatives to cow's milk. This is especially important for the large number

of minority children who are lactose intolerant and experience adverse health effects simply because, in practice, dairy is the only type of milk offered in schools.

The rates of lactose intolerance in these communities is surprisingly high with 65 percent of Latino students, 75 percent of Black students, and 90 percent of Asian students unable to digest dairy milk without detrimental effects.

Many children don't make the connection between consumption of this product and their feelings of discomfort and even illness. Right now, children who suffer adverse reactions from cow's milk must get a doctor's note if they choose not to accept traditional milk in their lunch. This is partly due to Congress' "milk note" requirement which places an unfair burden squarely on minority children.

Lactose intolerance causes a range of health effects, from stomach pains and digestive problems to exacerbated asthma symptoms. This makes learning more difficult for children.

America needs to embrace a diverse lunch counter solution.

PROTECTING SPEECH FROM GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILSON of South Carolina). Pursuant to House Resolution 199 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 140.

Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. AMODEI) kindly take the chair.

□ 1212

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 140) to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit Federal employees from advocating for censorship of viewpoints in their official capacity, and for other purposes, with Mr. AMODEI (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, amendment No. 6, printed in House Report 118-7 offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. ROSE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in House Report 118-7.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, after line 16, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent subsections):

“(e) ANNUAL TRAINING.—Not less than annually, the head of each employing agency shall provide mandatory training on this section and the requirements of this section to each agency employee.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution No. 199, the gentleman from Tennessee and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment designated as Amendment No. 9 to H.R. 140, the Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act, and I thank my friend from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for introducing this important piece of legislation.

Federal employees should absolutely not be censoring lawful speech, and I am proud to support this bill which will clearly prohibit that practice.

My straightforward amendment simply requires mandatory annual training on the requirements of the underlying bill. We were all recently made aware of the shameful instances of Federal Government-driven censorship that occurred in conjunction with Twitter over the last several years, and with that revelation, we must be suspicious that similar censorship has occurred in conjunction with other Big Tech social media platforms.

The goal of H.R. 140 is to eliminate such instances of Federal Government censorship, and my amendment furthers that goal by requiring Federal employees to undergo annual training to inform and remind them of their obligations under this bill to refrain from any and all censorship activities.

□ 1215

Kara Frederick, director of The Heritage Foundation's Tech Policy Center, recently penned a Heritage Foundation backgrounder titled: "Combating Big Tech's Totalitarianism: A Road Map."

In her piece, Ms. Frederick writes: "The Biden administration is attempting to circumvent the Constitution by pressuring private tech companies to take down content under a broad and politically biased definition of misinformation. When Big Tech companies do the government's bidding by removing users and content that the government tells them are objectionable, they are essentially acting as government agents, a potential violation of the First Amendment."

Mr. Chair, I am proud that this Congress has made this bill a priority. Government censorship and government-pressured censorship of lawful speech are just plain wrong.

Today, we are pushing back on this anti-freedom activity. My amendment will strengthen H.R. 140 by helping to ensure a high level of compliance with its requirements.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from New Mexico is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment, which

is, as the gentleman has described, a simple training requirement to ensure that this act is implemented correctly. Seems like a perfectly reasonable thing in and of itself; that is, it would be if the actual underlying bill that it seeks to modify was reasonable and not some sort of bizarre, Orwellian doublespeak designed to mislead the American people about what this bill is actually about.

Nothing about this bill is reasonable. Nothing about this bill, the process of how it has been brought to the floor, and how it has misled the people of our country about what is happening is normal. It does not secure the freedom of speech or any other freedoms of the American people. It actually endangers them.

In fact, it imperils our democracy by handcuffing the ability of law enforcement, national security, and intelligence officials to provide factual, critical information to social media companies and the public in order to prevent crimes or to ensure that election fraud tampering does not occur and that there is no foreign interference with our elections.

This is not some unintended consequence of the bill; rather, it is the entire point of this bill, as my Republican colleagues have conceded.

When we marked up this bill in the Oversight Committee, Chairman COMER produced two emails from a single FBI agent to Twitter that he said were "the purpose of the bill." You might be asking, what terrible censorship was the FBI trying to achieve in those emails? When Democrats were finally provided with the email content, it was an email to Twitter from the FBI identifying fraudulent election tweets. In fact, the content identified that there were multiple tweets that were misleading about the time, place, or manner of voting in the upcoming election.

This is the smoking gun that they are claiming is taking away our freedoms—that is right—election misinformation that was meant to deceive American voters, which the FBI flagged as part of their course of business. They would like to hamper the ability of our FBI and our law enforcement to be able to do their jobs.

This is, of course, the same party that has engaged in voter suppression for countless decades, so we probably shouldn't be surprised.

We know that the American people not only want us to protect their voting rights and their basic rights to express themselves, their freedoms as protected by the Bill of Rights and our Constitution, but we also want our public servants to be able to do their jobs and to do their jobs with integrity and ensure the integrity of our election system.

Democrats sought to try to address some of the grave flaws in this bill and address the supposed intent of the bill by submitting 43 separate amendments for floor consideration. In fact, only one was made in order.