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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEAN of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 19, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable AARON BEAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF DETROIT'S FOREIGN LANGUAGE IMMERSION AND CULTURAL STUDIES MIDDLE SCHOOL ROBOTICS TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the achievement of Detroit's Foreign Language Immersion and Cultural Studies School's Middle School Robotics Team's outstanding performance in competition this year.

The team is Detroit public schools' first team in more than 30 years to

travel to the For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology International Championship. Later this month, the FLICS Robotics Team will be taking on the best teams from all over the world in this high-stakes, 4-day competition.

Team Techno Phoenix has worked hard and persevered in competition throughout the season, including an outstanding performance at our State championship.

I am so incredibly proud of this group of young people who have invested time and energy into this challenging pursuit.

Congratulations, FLICS' Team Techno Phoenix. We will cheer Team Techno Phoenix on as they enter the first international competition on our behalf.

CELEBRATING RENAISSANCE HIGH SCHOOL'S CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer a heartfelt congratulations to the members of the Detroit Renaissance High School's Chess Team on their first-place victory in the Under 800 category at the U.S. Chess Federation's K-12 National Championship.

For 4 grueling days, the team competed in high-stakes chess matches with teams from all across the country. Their victory is a testament to long hours of practice, focus, and determination. The team displayed critical thinking and strategic skill, beating more than 60 other teams.

This victory is Renaissance High School's first-ever chess national championship.

Please join me in recognizing the Renaissance High School Chess Team for their accomplishment.

Congratulations.

YEMEN'S HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the recent progress made towards peace in Yemen.

Now we must focus aggressively on addressing the humanitarian crisis to

support the Yemeni people; 14.8 million are starving right now.

The recent progress and statements from those involved offer new hope that peace in Yemen is possible, but obstacles still remain that require engagement from this Congress and from President Biden.

We cannot allow our hope for the current peace talks to distract us from the massive ongoing humanitarian crisis. We can do both.

Mr. Speaker, a month ago, I led two dozen of our colleagues here in requesting at least \$1.2 billion in U.S. humanitarian aid to Yemen in the upcoming budget. Over half a million children right now may die from malnutrition and starvation this year if we do not act. It is that simple. And when we act, the world is listening and watching.

A significant increase in U.S. assistance to Yemen would cause countries to follow our lead, meaning our investment will have far greater impact. We must make sure that our message is clear, that we as a country cannot stand on the sidelines and allow Yemen to starve.

If this diplomatic process breaks down, I am prepared to work with my colleagues to introduce new legislation to end this awful war.

Mr. Speaker, I again recognize all those that have lost their lives during this war, and I recognize those on whom it has had a long-lasting impact.

CELEBRATING RAMADAN

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as one of the first Muslim women ever elected to the United States Congress. I am here always making sure that we have a voice here in Congress.

Tomorrow is the holy month of Ramadan. I offer a wonderful greeting to all of my neighbors across the country that are observing Ramadan and wish them Ramadan Mubarak. I hope that they find joy with their family as they celebrate this holy month and celebrate Eid tomorrow with their children.

□ 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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This is something that we are going to see celebrated all over the world. It is a beautiful end-of-month celebration to reflect and to find peace and connection with a higher God.

I thank all my Muslim neighbors who are celebrating Ramadan for allowing me to be here and be a voice for them in Congress.

SUPPORTING TRANSGENDERISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, Congress is going to vote on a bill that would ban some transgender kids from participating in sports. To be honest, I haven't thought about this issue very much. I don't actually know any transgender students.

I think many of you may not have thought of this issue either. You have busy lives.

If you still have an open mind on this, I would like to read to you part of a letter that the Republican Governor of Utah wrote. This letter is the veto message of Governor Spencer Cox of Utah where he vetoed a similar State bill regarding transgender kids.

He writes: "I must admit I am not an expert on transgenderism. I struggle to understand so much of it, and the science is conflicting. When in doubt, however, I always try to err on the side of kindness, mercy and compassion."

It goes on to say: "Here are the numbers that have most impacted my decision: 75,000, 4, 1, 86, and 56."

What does he mean by those numbers? Well, this is what he writes:

"75,000 high school kids participating in high school sports in Utah.

"Four transgender kids playing high school sports in Utah.

"One transgender student playing girls' sports.

"86 percent of trans youth reporting suicidality.

"56 percent of trans youth having attempted suicide."

He goes on to write: "Four kids and only one of them playing girls' sports. That's what all of this is about. Four kids who aren't dominating or winning trophies or taking scholarships. Four kids who are just trying to find some friends and feel like they are a part of something. Four kids trying to get through each day. Rarely has so much fear and anger been directed at so few. I don't understand what they are going through or why they feel the way they do. But I want them to live. And all the research shows that even a little acceptance and connection can reduce suicidality significantly."

Like the Republican Governor of Utah, I also am not an expert on transgenderism, but I do know this: We are all Americans, and these are kids. Most of them wake up every morning living in fear that they are going to have a bad day, that they are going to be shunned, made fun of, discriminated against and bullied.

Mr. Speaker, we are the United States House of Representatives. We should not be bullying kids.

IN SOLEMN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 108TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of the Armenian genocide. April 24 marks the 108th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, one of the most horrific losses of life in modern history.

The Ottoman Empire's brutal campaign of ethnic cleansing led to the deaths of roughly 1.5 million Armenians in the period between 1915 to 1923.

Despite this tragedy, the Armenian-American community today is strong and vibrant. Remembering the atrocities like the Armenian genocide is crucial to ensuring that this never happens again. A key part of this process is education.

I am proud to co-lead this year's Armenian Genocide Education Act with Representatives ANNA ESHOO, GUS BILIRAKIS, and DAVID VALADAO, which we will introduce on April 24.

This legislation will authorize \$10 million in funding to the Library of Congress over 5 years to develop Armenian genocide education programs and resources which can be used by educators across the country. Those resources will ensure that future generations learn about and never forget about these atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with the Armenian-American community in my district and across the U.S. as they honor and remember those who perished during the genocide.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, receive this day our prayers of concern for our world and help us bear wisely our responsibility to intercede on behalf of the afflicted, rescue the downtrodden, and pursue avenues of peace in areas of war and turmoil.

Where, O Lord, do we start? There are so many under the threat of tyrants and tormentors around the world, to include the countless Ukrainians for whom we haven't ceased praying. They are on their knees daily before You, the Almighty, appealing to You and to

allies and friends like us to stand with them in their suffering. Where in the world do we best serve You?

Holy God, how should we intervene in the discord among nations and in conflict within countries? By what right do we step in in order to affect the peace you have obliged us to pursue, when our own country is fragmented, fractured by so many competing views? What do we need to do to unify ourselves around our sacred values of freedom and justice, life, and liberty?

Indeed, O Lord, our prayers are heavy laden with the complexity and responsibility of each of these burdens. We pray that the kind of rest You promise us would allow time for discernment, clarity of purpose, and faithfulness to the tasks You have entrusted to us this day.

We offer ourselves to Your guidance in all these things as we pray in Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MAGAZINER 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 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

\$113 BILLION SPENT SUPPORTING THE WAR IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, the U.S. was thrust by Biden and the Democratic Party into the Ukrainian conflict. We have spent over \$113 billion to support Ukraine in its war against Russia.

Democrat legislation passed in the 117th Congress exempted Biden from complying with numerous requirements of the Arms Export Control Act and the Foreign Assistance Act for leases to Ukraine, a country that former President Obama didn't think twice about not lifting a finger to assist in 2014.

These exemptions have led to rampant spending with little to no accountability. The American people deserve