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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, watch over us this day. Remind us of Your abiding presence in the valley of decision. Walk alongside each of us that we would receive Your assurance that we are not alone in our efforts to serve this country. The concerns we harbor both personally and professionally are safely in Your keeping.

Guard our hearts and minds and fill them with the grace of Your spirit that, in the discourse of this day, we would take each thought captive in our obedience to You.

Replenish our energy and purpose with the good treasure of hope found only in You, that we would trust that in Your loving mercy and preventient grace, what is good will be brought forth from the work this week.

Protect us from everything that would draw us away from You. In the multitude of decisions, actions, and all their consequences, remind us that our eyes should remain fixed on Your guidance and our faith stand firm in discerning Your will this day and in the days ahead.

In the certainty of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HINSON 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.

COMBATING SPOTTED LANTERNFLIES

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to an invasive species attacking Pennsylvania agriculture.

The spotted lanternfly was first discovered in the Commonwealth in 2014 and has since traveled to 51 out of our 67 counties. This spotted lanternfly can impact the grape, fruit tree, plant nursery, and timber industries, which contribute billions of dollars each year to Pennsylvania's economy.

In efforts to prevent the spread of the spotted lanternfly, Pennsylvania has established quarantine zones, but it takes collective and intentional efforts to slow the spread of this insect.

Across the Commonwealth, the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture along with Penn State Extension provide education-based programs to the public. These programs are key resources for community members looking for information on how to combat and slow the spread of the spotted lanternfly.

Mr. Speaker, with warmer weather comes spotted lanternfly hatching season, and residents are encouraged to squash the bug and their egg masses.

It will take us all doing our part to prevent any further spread of this invasive insect, and I encourage all to utilize their local resources when combating invasive species.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CONEN MORGAN

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an exceptional North Carolinian taken from us too soon, Conen Morgan.

Conen grew up in Wake County, where he developed a love for science in middle school. He graduated from Garner High School and went on to earn his bachelor of science degree in computer science from North Carolina State.

He was a Kappa brother and embodied their motto: Achievement in every field of human endeavor.

Like a Rube Goldberg machine, he was always doing so many different creative things. Conen was an activist, scientist, teacher, graphic artist, and entrepreneur. Occasionally, he did some politics, too.

He served as the 67th president of the Young Democrats of North Carolina and worked on countless campaigns, including my own.

However, after his wife, Reyna, and his family and friends, his greatest love was Science Olympiad. With over 30 years of service to Science Olympiad, he gave back to the entire North Carolina community by empowering young minds to explore science and find wonder in the world.

His friends, his family, his political colleagues, and the tens of thousands of students he reached will all miss Conen's smile, his laugh, his compassion, and, most of all, his faith that if a kid like him could succeed, every kid in our State should have the education

□ 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 opportunities they need so they could succeed, as well.

Rest in peace, Conen.

CONGRATULATING CHAMBERSBURG HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chambersburg High School on winning the PIAA boys' track and field championship this past week at Shippensburg University.

Under the leadership of Coach Bob Walker, Chambersburg outdistanced their competition on the way to scoring 48 points and claiming the team's first-ever State championship.

Coach Walker has consistently worked with student athletes to demonstrate that there are no shortcuts to success. Practice, hard work, and determination are the hallmarks of what has made this an incredible team.

Chambersburg's commitment to academic excellence is an example of how student athletes can be supported both on and off the track.

On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate the Chambersburg High School Trojans and wish them every continued success.

HIGHLIGHTING SOCIAL MOBILITY AND CSUSM

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to highlight California State University San Marcos, located in my district in San Diego County.

Recently, the university was ranked number one in the Nation in the 2022 Social Mobility Index out of 14,000 colleges and universities.

This annual index measures the opportunities universities provide economically disadvantaged and first-generation students to graduate into well-paying jobs.

With approximately 80 percent of their students remaining in our region after graduation, the university's success is a major benefit to the San Diego region.

California State University San Marcos has opened its doors wide and welcomed students of all backgrounds: 54 percent of students are the first in their family to attend college; 40 percent have high financial need; 12 percent are military-affiliated; and the campus has the highest enrollment of former foster youth per capita in the Nation.

Through teaching hard skills and providing a world-class STEM education, California State University San Marcos drives upward social and economic mobility. We should encourage

universities across the Nation to look to this institution as an example of how to put student success first.

I congratulate California State University San Marcos and President Neufeldt. I am proud they are serving the citizens of my district, and I look forward to seeing the ongoing success of their graduates in our region and beyond.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A FIFTH GRADER?

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize fifth grade students from Mid-Prairie Middle School in Kalona, Iowa, for serving as an excellent example of how young Americans can have a positive impact on their communities. They spent the last few months learning about financial literacy and entrepreneurship by starting their own endeavor selling candy to other students in the district, with the goal of donating their profits to a local animal shelter.

What the students and teachers didn't know when they started the business was how successful it would become. With an initial goal of raising \$100, they blew everyone away when they presented their grand total of \$750 to the local shelter this past Tuesday. The money will go toward saving the lives of countless animals in need of a home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have such bright young entrepreneurs in my district. When they ask if you are smarter than a fifth grader, I would say to look to Kalona Mid-Prairie Middle School.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CONEN MORGAN

(Mrs. FOUSHEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the memory of Mr. Conen Morgan, an extraordinary North Carolinian who was taken from us far too soon.

Conen was a steadfast advocate for equity and played a pivotal role in shaping North Carolina politics as a renowned political consultant and a founding member of Advance North Carolina.

He was a remarkable human being and had the unique ability to inspire and touch the lives of everyone he encountered through his kindness, compassion, and genuine care for others.

Conen's leadership, passion, and tireless efforts will have a lasting impact and will leave a profound void in many folks across North Carolina that will be felt for years to come.

I am immensely honored to have known Conen, both personally and professionally. Indeed, he was my friend. I

extend my deepest condolences to his wife, Reyna Walters-Morgan, and his family, friends, and loved ones.

RECOGNIZING FIRST-EVER JMU VALLEY SCHOLARS GRADUATING CLASS

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the first-ever graduating class from the Valley Scholars program at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Between eighth grade and high school graduation, potential first-generation college students are recruited as scholars from surrounding public school districts, and they engage in educational and cultural enrichment activities.

During the Valley Scholars program, students are encouraged and motivated to become leaders in the classroom and the community while building skills that will increase awareness and access to institutions of higher education.

With the goal of receiving scholarship support to attend JMU, the students have the opportunity to be the first in their families to earn college degrees.

Virginia's Sixth District is incredibly proud of these talented students for their hard work to achieve their American Dream.

I congratulate the first graduating class of Valley Scholars and their families back home. America can't wait to see what the future has in store for them.

□ 1415

FIGHTING FOR VETERANS

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

Mr. Speaker, extreme Republicans have been dead set on demanding harmful cuts that would be disastrous for the American people. If they didn't get their way, they threatened to default on our economy.

In fact, Republicans demanded: a 22 percent cut to veterans' healthcare; to make essential toxic exposure and burn pits funding discretionary so that veterans would have to come hat in hand to the Federal Government every year; and to zero out funding for the PACT Act's toxic exposure fund or use it for other purposes.

Republicans were willing to cause an economic default that would have raised costs for families, cut one million jobs for workers, and cost seniors their retirement, if they didn't get their way.

Now, under these horrendous circumstances, the House today will vote on a bipartisan budget agreement. Under President Biden's leadership, this bill saved veterans' healthcare