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No. 109

House of Representatives

The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FITZGERALD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 22, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT FITZGERALD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Loving God, what a gift You have given us in embracing us in the depth of Your love. Such a wonder it is that You would choose to love us that it is both beyond our understanding and yet reaches into our deepest needs.

Because You, in Your mercy, have first loved us, help us to respond by loving others. Enable us to live fully in the mystery of Your heavenly love, that all hatred and malice would not find a way into this day's encounters. Root out any inclination our hearts may have to disdain Your compassion by our failure to show kindness to one another.

Save us, too, from any love that obscures Your own. Our passions, our pet projects, our priorities, are poor substitutes for the purpose You have for us. Our arrogance, our self-absorption, our attitudes, are nothing but self-generated obstacles, blinding us to Your activity in the world around us.

Let Your love be the lens through which we look at the people with whom we interact in this place, that our life would reflect the depth of our love for

You and the magnitude of Your love for all of creation.

By Your grace and in Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF OFFICER MARK WAGNER, II

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the tragic loss of Wintergreen Police Officer Mark Christopher Wagner, II, and to honor the legacy that he has left behind.

On June 16, 2023, Officer Wagner responded to a call for help following an assault in the Wintergreen community of Nelson County, Virginia. He was the

first officer to arrive at the scene when he bravely ran into harm's way, as these officers do every day, to apprehend the suspect who would fatally attack him.

My prayers are with the family, friends, and loved ones of Officer Wagner as they grieve the loss of his life and begin to process life in his absence.

Psalm 34 reads: "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted . . ."

We grieve this tragic loss and we pray for the peace and comfort that only the Lord can provide to Officer Wagner's family.

Every day, Officer Wagner was committed to bravely protecting the Wintergreen community. He was an exceptional example of sacrificial service, giving his life to secure and defend the lives of others. I am humbled to recognize the valor of Officer Wagner and the courage and dedication he demonstrated to his community.

May God bless his family.

OVERTURNING ROE V. WADE

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago, the Supreme Court rolled back a fundamental individual freedom in overturning Roe v. Wade. Now, abortion care is inaccessible in 14 States and heavily restricted in many others, with one in three women now living in States without access to abortion. That is unacceptable.

In restricting access, States are forcing women to seek dangerous alternatives, undermining women's health and safety. Women should have the freedom to make their own decisions about their health, not State legislatures or the Federal Government.

At this critical moment, my Democratic colleagues and I are taking action, despite the objections of Speaker MCCARTHY and the extremists in his

□ 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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party, to force a floor vote on the Women's Health Protection Act, which would make Roe the law of the land.

I am thankful for the work of the Healey administration in my home State to protect Massachusetts residents' healthcare, but I will not stop fighting until women across the country have the same protections to access safe and effective reproductive healthcare.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 21st installment of my farm bill impact series to highlight the tireless work of Kansas wheat farmers. Kansas is known as the wheat State, and our State's wheat farmers are feeding the world with their lifesaving commodity. With more than 15,000 wheat farms across the State and 5 million acres of wheat in the Big First District alone, our State leads the Nation in wheat production.

Wheat harvest is underway in Kansas, which begins in the southern part of our State and moves north over the next few weeks. As we speak, Kansas farmers are working tirelessly in the face of record-breaking drought to produce wheat, which is a staple for families in our country and all over the world. This year's drought and market conditions have caused Kansas producers to abandon the highest number of acres of wheat since World War I. Over the past 5 years, Kansas wheat farmers have harvested an average of 44 bushels per acre, but this year, USDA predicts that farmers will harvest roughly 29 bushels per acre. That is a 35 percent decrease.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Kansas wheat farmers and all our American farmers for working tirelessly to keep our country's food secure and self-determining as a Nation.

ROE V. WADE OVERTURN ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today nearly 1 year after Roe v. Wade was overturned to condemn the continued sanctioned assault on women.

In the year since this decision, more women have been prosecuted for their pregnancy outcomes and more laws have been introduced to further criminalize us than ever before.

Is it okay to arrest a woman for having a stillbirth? Is it a crime to assist a pregnant child of rape or incest to get an abortion? Is it reasonable to classify abortion as a homicide? No, but that is where we are now.

A woman can now be prosecuted for the death of her unborn child. It is almost a capital offense to be born a

woman. Given the likelihood that your female child may be raped, have a complicated pregnancy, or just need an abortion, would you want her to be treated like a criminal? No.

Mr. Speaker, women's bodies have suffered endless surveillance and control for long enough. It is time that we stand up and talk about this, and it must end now.

RESCINDING THE UNILATERAL STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS EXECUTIVE ACTION

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, time and again, President Biden and congressional Democrats have made the choice to blatantly disregard the dire state of our country's finances.

Even when a few Members of his own party joined Republicans and voted in favor of H.J. Res. 45, which would have rescinded his unilateral student loan forgiveness executive action, the President vetoed it. Now, when given the chance to override the President's veto, radical House Democrats doubled down on their decision to force this taxpayer-funded bailout of student loan borrowers down the throats of hardworking, blue-collar workers who will never see a penny of the \$400 billion in forgiveness.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly a shame, and I express my regret for the millions of Americans who never went to college or responsibly chose to pay off their loans. I stand with them in calling out this ridiculous, unconstitutional taxpayer-funded bailout.

MAKING GOOD ON OUR PROMISE TO FORGIVE STUDENT LOAN DEBT

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, there are 45 million Americans waiting on the Supreme Court decision to see if their student loans will be forgiven.

Let me be clear: We cannot continue the resolution of student loan payments until we make good on our promise to forgive them. If students are having to pay student loans in September, they will then have less money to spend, and it will hurt us and possibly drive us into a recession.

Under the Higher Education Act, the President has the authority, and he should exercise that authority to make sure students aren't repaying their loans come this September, regardless of what the Supreme Court does.

CONGRATULATING LENOIR-RHYNE UNIVERSITY MEN'S LACROSSE

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the Lenoir-Rhyne University's men's lacrosse team for bringing home the NCAA Division II National Championship in an overwhelming 20-5 victory over Mercyhurst College.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, the Bears made their first appearance in the national championship game but came up just short. This time, though, they would not be denied. In fact, this wasn't just one dominating game for the Bears, it was a dominating season. All of North Carolina is proud that Lenoir-Rhyne has brought the national title home to Hickory. I am proud to represent Lenoir-Rhyne here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Greg, the Lenoir-Rhyne president, Dr. Whitt, the entire Lenoir-Rhyne community, and the Greater Hickory Metro.

Go Bears.

ESTABLISHING HIGH-SPEED, SECURE TELECOMMUNICATIONS DATA CONNECTION FROM THE AMERICAN SOIL TO THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight my bill, H.R. 3385, the DiasporaLink Act. This critical piece of legislation would request review of the feasibility of an undersea fiber-optic telecommunications cable established between the United States and Africa linked in the Virgin Islands of the United States.

This bill offers a significant opportunity to deepen economic connections and aid American regional security by establishing high-speed, secure telecommunications data connection from the American soil to the African Continent. The U.S. territory of the Virgin Islands, which is strategically positioned in transit zones to fight transnational crime and protect U.S. national and regional security, will prove to be a mutually advantageous location.

With increased terrorism and Russian, Chinese, and other adversarial nations on the African Continent, U.S. interests, the need for direct linkage is mandatory. The United States undersea cable linked in the Virgin Islands, which is already a hub, is within our national strategic interests.

CONGRATULATING ANGELO STATE UNIVERSITY RAMS BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2023 NCAA Division II National Champion Angelo State University Rams baseball team.