

COMMITTEE ON RULES: Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Neguse, Ms. Leger Fernandez.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Pascrell, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Ms. Sánchez, Mr. Higgins of New York, Ms. Sewell, Ms. DelBene, Ms. Chu, Ms. Moore of Wisconsin, Mr. Kildee, Mr. Beyer, Mr. Evans, Mr. Schneider, Mr. Panetta.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. HAGEMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE MONTEREY PARK DANCE STUDIO SHOOTING

Ms. CHU. This last Saturday night, a shooter came into my hometown of Monterey Park, California, to a dance studio and killed 11 innocent people.

Today, I rise to honor the memories of the 11 lives we lost: Diana Tom, Mymy Nhan, Lilian Li, Xiujuan Yu, Hong Jian, Muoi Ung, Valentino Alvero, Yu-Lun Kao, Chia Yau, Wen-Tau Yu, Ming Ma.

I also wish for the speedy recovery for the nine who are injured, many of whom are still in the hospital.

Lunar New Year is a time of celebration for the thriving Asian-American community in my hometown. Saturday's senseless murders pierced the peace and joy of our celebrations and tore a hole through our hearts.

This Lunar New Year was supposed to be a celebration of the Year of the Rabbit, characterized by hopefulness and peace.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to keep hope alive and work together to make our country a peaceful one free from this kind of horrific violence.

Thank you for helping me honor the memories of those lost by observing a moment of silence.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 212

Mr. TRONE. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 212, the Protecting our Land Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1645

CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and

congratulate the record-breaking completion rates at the University of Georgia.

In just one year, the university's 4-year completion rate for freshmen has increased from 72.1 percent to 75.1 percent.

The university's 6-year completion rate has reached a new high of 88.1 percent, and the retention rate of students remains strong at 94.3 percent.

I commend the university's faculty hiring initiatives that have bolstered this already prestigious institution.

High-demand areas of study such as the Terry College of Business and the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences continue to provide students with very talented professors, thanks to these initiatives.

The university has also continued to grow tutoring and peer learning programs to provide students with all the resources they need to succeed.

I am proud of the hard work the University of Georgia is doing to ensure student success across the board. Go Dawgs.

SALUTING CASSADY DAVIS

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

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today early to kick off Black History Month. Cassady Davis, a third grader from Evening Street Elementary School, we salute her.

She is the daughter of McKenzie and Shawna Davis. She enjoys soccer, swimming, reading, and spending time with her sister, Collins.

Students have the opportunity to select past and present-day leaders for their Black history showcase. I am honored that Cassady chose me as her modern-day leader.

I commend the work of America's educators who are instilling in our students the importance of Black history, which is American history, and empowering young girls like Cassady to become the Nation's next generation of leaders.

So to all listening today, we salute a 9-year-old, Cassady Davis.

REPRESENTING PENNSYLVANIA'S 15TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

(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 proudly rise today to represent Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

The 15th Congressional District encompasses 18 counties in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, nearly one-third of the land mass.

It includes all of Armstrong, Cameron, Centre—including my hometown of Howard—Clarion, Clearfield, Clinton, Elk, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Potter, Snyder, Tioga, Union, and War-

ren Counties. It also includes parts of Indiana, Lycoming, and Venango Counties.

Madam Speaker, I take great pride in my service to the people of the 15th Congressional District, and I work hard to earn their trust, help solve their problems, and be a diligent Representative.

When I am not here in Washington, I spend my days on the road in the district, traveling to meetings and events, and I work to connect with my constituents and truly be a voice for each community I serve.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak here as I gave 144 1-minute speeches in the 117th Congress and to be a strong voice for the citizens of the 15th District.

The challenges before us remain great. It is my hope that we will tackle these challenges head on. It is the American way.

ATTACKS ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN CULTURE IN FLORIDA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the recent attacks on African-American culture in Florida.

Recently, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis blocked a new advanced placement course on African-American studies.

The course was inclusive of study of African-American culture that included literature, the arts, politics, science, and even geography. In addition, it included discussions about the Black struggle in modern America.

Governor DeSantis said that the class lacks educational value because it includes other subjects and the theory of slave reparations.

Clearly, Governor DeSantis believes education should reject any content that allows students to think for themselves, and he wants Americans to think that nothing bad ever happened in American history.

That does not sound like education to me. It sounds like indoctrination, and it should not be welcome anywhere in America.

Wokeness on the Republican side has become a new word, a code word. Let's eradicate that position.

SUPPORTING IRANIAN PROTESTERS

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

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of the brave Iranian protesters who are fighting against barbaric forces of immorality.

During his 1967 inaugural address as Governor of California, Ronald Reagan said that "Freedom is a fragile thing, and it is never more than one generation away from extinction."

Iranian protestors have based this revolution on three principles: women, life, and freedom, all of which America has rightfully championed.

With a considerable population of Iranian Americans in New York's Third Congressional District, let America serve as a Democratic beacon of light for the Iranian men and women who are fighting abroad.

I acknowledge Representative TENNEY, who introduced a House concurrent resolution commending the bravery of the men and women of Iran.

I declare, with every bullet and with every act of violence imposed by the Iranian government, comes a call for us to condemn their actions and urge the Biden administration to take far greater actions than mere sanctions to address the countless murders and examples of senseless brutality.

RECOGNIZING RANDY SAWYER

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a good friend and a wonderful professional, Randy Sawyer.

Randy has been a dedicated public servant in the county I represent in San Francisco Bay Area, Contra Costa. Contra Costa is home to a heavily industrialized part of the bay area with refineries and chemical plants.

Randy has served important roles at the Contra Costa Health Services, beginning as a specialist engineer in the Hazardous Materials Division, then becoming the Chief Environmental Health and Hazardous Materials Officer, and ultimately ending as the Deputy Director.

Among Randy's efforts to promote public health, he helped to champion the county's community warning system, one of the best response teams in the State and the country, to alert county residents and businesses when they are impacted or in danger of being impacted by an emergency.

He also helped Contra Costa lead the county in refinery safety with his work on the industrial safety ordinance, which I am proud to be an author of.

The legacy of Randy's work will continue to protect residents in the bay area for years to come. Please join me in congratulating Randy on his retirement and honoring him for his 30 years of public service.

□ 1700

LET'S PREPARE FOR DISASTER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, recently, my home State of California has suffered from a series of devastating storms on the flood side of the

equation. We received at least 11 inches of rainfall and were hit by extreme flooding as a result.

Now, in California, unlike any other places, we have a simultaneous flood emergency and drought emergency; only in modern California. Many people were forced to evacuate. Twenty people lost their lives.

The damage was extensive, but the real disaster is that we already know how to reduce the fallout from flood events. If we built more water storage, such as Sites Reservoir, raising Shasta Dam, et cetera, we could store more of this rainfall that would not become floodwater, rather than also allowing it to flush out to the ocean where we will need that water in a regular drought period for agriculture, et cetera.

Storing water from these storms also allows us to weather our periodic droughts, such as in San Luis Reservoir. If we could run the pumps hard enough, we could be filling that facility.

So, again, that removes water from a flood zone and puts it into a good place where we can use the water.

We get fatalities from these disasters; they flood out roads; they do destructive damage to infrastructure.

We need better evacuation routes for people. We need to think ahead and plan for storage and for flood infrastructure, instead of letting climate change and environmental issues stop it.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

(Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mark the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the historic Supreme Court decision that gave women legal access to abortion.

Now, 50 years later, an extreme MAGA Supreme Court has reversed Roe, taking us to a new dark place in history; and now Republicans are racing full steam ahead toward a nationwide abortion ban, creating hardship and even death for pregnant women, and prison for their doctors.

To that, I say, my, my, my.

People, not politicians, should have the freedom to control their own reproductive destinies. On the 50th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I rise to say that the American people want more freedom, not less; and that means the ability of each person to make the personal decision about their health, their lives, and their future.

INTRODUCING FRESHMAN REPUBLICAN MEMBERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I would like to kick off our first Wednesday Special Order Hour of the year by extending my congratulations and warm wishes to all of our colleagues, all the new Members, all the Members who are returning here. We have very, very important work to do in the 118th Congress.

I want to thank our House Democrat counterparts, as well, for working with us to ensure a smooth transition from the minority to the majority. It is an important part of our institution, and we are grateful for how this has gone so far.

We should all be rooting for the success of this Congress, obviously, because when Congress succeeds, everyone in our country benefits; and so we have an important responsibility before us.

We are under no illusion that the governing in such a closely divided body over these divided times is going to be any easy task. We know that. We know what the challenges are.

But we are also under no illusion that Congress has been operating as it should be. We think this can be done better, and our endeavor here is to show everyone how.

This problem that we faced here has been around for a long time. Look at just what happened in the last Congress. We had trillions upon trillions of dollars in government spending, which sent inflation soaring.

We had votes on immensely consequential, complex, 1,000-plus page bills sent to us just hours before we were called to vote upon them.

We had Congress steadily outsourcing its authority over to unelected bureaucrats in the executive agencies.

We had Members dial into congressional hearing, literally, from their bedrooms and their basements. We had Members voting by proxy while they were on vacation abroad.

With the 118th Congress, we are here to declare that those days are over. The House is getting back to work. We are ending remote voting and remote committee work in the House. That is going to restore greater transparency and accountability in the legislative process.

I actually believe that when we restore in-person work, as this was designed to be done, as the Founders intended, as they drew it up, it is going to have an added benefit because I believe it will help us rebuild comity and foster more civility in the House.

I am not going to belabor this point, but I would just say, at the end of last