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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MCCLAIN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 11, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA C. MCCLAIN 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 1:50 p.m.

DEMAND ACCOUNTABILITY FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, for the past 2 years, the American people have been led by a President that has failed to bring accountability to the executive branch.

This weekend, the House Energy and Commerce Committee uncovered the embarrassing and disastrous fact that HHS Secretary Becerra failed to law-

fully reappoint key NIH officials before their terms expired.

This failure to reappoint the above NIH directors jeopardizes the legal validity of more than \$25 billion in Federal biomedical research grants made in 2022 alone. This is yet another example of the Biden administration's reckless decisionmaking.

Our Republican Commitment to America means creating a government that is accountable. Since January, House Republicans have fought to expose the wrongdoing by President Biden and those that he appointed.

It is time to put a stop to the reckless actions that the Biden administration continues to pursue that has led to 74 percent of Americans believing that our Nation is on the wrong track.

Madam Speaker, it is time to demand accountability from the President. It is time, once again, to have a Federal Government that is worthy, worthy of the American people.

CELEBRATING 285 YEARS OF WORSHIP AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UPPER WEST CONOCOQUEAGUE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this year marks 285 years of worship at the Presbyterian Church of Upper West Conococheague, located in Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

Founded in 1738, the Presbyterian Church has been in its current location since 1794, during President George Washington's second term as President.

Since that time, the church has grown into a pillar and a major part of the community that it serves, working tirelessly among so many local charities and missions. These works include Bountiful Blessings, Operation Christmas Child, and the Giving Tree, a program the Presbyterian Church launched in order to ensure that every school student in local schools has the clothing and the resources that they need to be fulfilled and successful in their education.

This great Nation was born on the fundamental belief that no government and no king can tell us what to believe or how to worship. For the past 285 years, Presbyterian Church of Upper West Conococheague has stood as a testament to that principle.

On behalf of everyone in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate them on reaching such a significant milestone and wish Presbyterian Church and their congregation every continued success.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Dierdre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

SUPPORTING THE NDAA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the conservative priorities included in the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act.

In recent years, our military has struggled with a severe recruiting crisis that will have enormous implications for our strategic position in an increasingly unstable global stage. There are several factors exacerbated by the Biden administration that have made military service less compelling to young Americans, and I say this as a 24-year Army veteran.

For instance, discharging service-members who declined to take the COVID-19 vaccine, despite requesting an exemption, upended careers and negatively impacted many service-members and their hard-earned benefits.

This year's NDAA provides critical steps to gut the administration's political agenda that has no place in our

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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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military. For instance, it provides a pathway back to the Armed Forces for servicemembers who declined to take the COVID vaccine. It also continues to prohibit the DOD from mandating that servicemembers take an emergency use vaccine.

Additionally, this legislation includes an extremely important provision of a 5.2 percent increase in service-member pay. This is tremendously important for our enlisted ranks, and it is the largest pay raise in over 20 years.

I urge all my colleagues to support this important legislation that supports our military families and ensures our national security.

CONGRATULATING THE QUAD CITY STRIKERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I will use this time as a chance to congratulate the Quad City Strikers U15 Soccer Club who represented the State of Iowa in the 2023 US Youth Soccer National Presidents Cup, which took place in Wichita, Kansas, from July 6–11.

This is the third year in a row that they competed in the Midwest Regional, and this year, after a runner-up finish in the regional, they successfully clinched their place in the national tournament. They were one of eight teams who qualified for the tournament and the only one that represented the State of Iowa.

These boys worked hard all year long and were able to represent Iowa at the highest amateur level. I congratulate every player on the team and their coach, Juan Nuci.

We thank him for his dedication and for making Iowa, and especially the First District, proud.

CONGRATULATING CAITLIN CLARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today, I congratulate Ms. Caitlin Clark of Des Moines, Iowa, for winning the National Player of the Year award for her performance this past season for the University of Iowa Hawkeyes Women's Basketball Team.

Caitlin is a junior at the University of Iowa and averaged almost 28 points a game, while leading the Hawkeyes to the NCAA Women's Basketball championship game. While averaging 28 points a game, she also averaged seven rebounds and almost nine assists through her historic season, where she swept the National Player of the Year award.

Caitlin Clark is a prime example of our constituents in Iowa, extremely talented and hardworking, while also remaining humble through all of their success. We congratulate Caitlin, and we thank her for making Iowa, the University of Iowa, and the Hawkeye nation proud.

CONGRATULATING JUDGE WILLIAM KELLY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Judge William Kelly on his selection to be a magistrate judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Iowa. Judge Kelly is a member of the Iowa National Guard and

will now serve our country in a different way.

Judge Kelly has an accomplished legal and judicial career. He obtained an undergraduate degree from Brown University. After graduation, he moved to Iowa to attend Drake University Law School in Des Moines. For 8 years he served as a State District Court Judge for District 5C in Iowa State courts, serving Polk County.

Becoming a magistrate judge happens after a rigorous selection process, and candidates are selected based on their merit by the district judges to help assist with the smooth and speedy legal process that we enjoy in the United States. Good judges in our U.S. court system are vital to keeping our constitutional republic together. I applaud Judge Kelly for taking the position, and I wish him luck in serving southeast Iowa.

Madam Speaker, I also extend a happy birthday to my sister, Mari-Eleanor Martino. Happy birthday Mari-Eleanor.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 NDAA

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, this week the House will consider the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, otherwise known as the NDAA.

The NDAA primarily authorizes the spending levels for our military and the Department of Defense, but it also serves as the legislative vehicle for how our military ought to operate.

That is why I was proud to submit numerous amendments to this year's NDAA to ensure our military is focused on fighting our enemies and deterring our adversaries and that Congress is well-informed of the Department of Defense's goals and initiatives to ensure stringent oversight and accountability and to push back on wokeness in the military being advanced by President Biden.

One of my amendments would require that all Members of Congress receive a briefing on the joint multiyear plan to fulfill defensive requirements for Taiwan. The underlying bill only makes this briefing available to appropriate congressional committees, but my amendment would make this briefing available to all Members because I think it is important that all of the people's Representatives are included in this important process.

I also filed two additional amendments, one to require a briefing, and the other to require a report on the People's Republic of China's actions in Africa that pose a threat to U.S. national security and the Defense Department's plan to counter such threats.

We can all agree that we must continue to do everything in our power to assess the threat that China poses to our national security, which includes its actions in Africa.

On that same note, I also proposed another amendment that would prohibit the Department of Defense's Office of Strategic Capital from investing or facilitating investments in Chinese-owned firms. As we continue to counteract China's aggression, including their use of stolen intellectual property and U.S. trade secrets, we must ensure that U.S. taxpayer dollars are not being invested or facilitating investments in Chinese-owned firms.

Lastly, I joined a number of my colleagues in cosponsoring a bipartisan amendment that would establish the United States-Israel Artificial Intelligence Center to leverage the experience, knowledge, and expertise of our two countries to develop more robust research and development cooperation in the field of artificial intelligence.

I believe that all of these amendments I mentioned today would strengthen the NDAA and help provide for a stronger national defense. I urge the Rules Committee to make all of my amendments in order.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF FRANK KONCILYA

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor a great Montanan whose service to this country will never be forgotten and whose passing will be mourned by many across the Treasure State.

Frank Koncilya was born in Roundup, Montana, where he graduated high school in 1942. After graduation, Frank was drafted into the United States Army and was quickly shipped off to England in preparation for the invasion of Normandy.

Frank landed on Utah Beach nearly 2 hours before the main invasion on D-day and served with distinction on that fateful day. After the Allies secured northern France, Frank's platoon was deployed to Belgium, where he was one of only two survivors in a fierce battle.

Frank was awarded five Bronze Star Medals for his heroic service. After the war, Frank became a teacher and an active member of the American Legion in Lewistown, Montana.

Frank's service to his country and his commitment to education are a perfect example of Montana values. It was an honor to represent him in Congress, and it is a privilege to recognize his legacy in the United States House of Representatives.

STRENGTHENING OUR ARMED FORCES

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, our troops risk their lives and make sacrifices every day in service to our