

special talent to make sure I never missed a vote. She was unwaveringly dedicated, often staying very late for votes, despite me insisting that she go home to rest.

Erin is a wonderful human being, a good friend, and a trusted adviser.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Erin for her service on behalf of the American people, especially the people of California's 36th and now 25th District. We miss you dearly and we wish you luck and look forward to your future endeavors.

JULIE SU'S IMPERILED CONFIRMATION

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Julie Su has now exceeded the previous record for the longest duration between a Presidential Cabinet nomination and a confirmation—when the same party controls the White House and the Senate—since 1887.

It is no surprise that Axios even dubbed her as “Biden's forever nominee.”

That is not a title, and certainly not an accolade worthy of a gold star or pat on the back. For months on end, her nomination has languished before the Senate. This is a telltale sign that she does not have the votes.

One doesn't need to be an expert in reading tea leaves to see that her nomination is on life support.

Mr. Speaker, I will offer some much-needed advice to the Biden administration: rip the Band-Aid off already and pull Julie Su's nomination.

SHORTAGE OF PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS AT VA CLINIC

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of concern for the ongoing shortage of primary care physicians at Stockton VA Clinic in my district.

There are nearly 30,000 veterans that live in San Joaquin County, but earlier this year the Stockton VA Clinic went from eight doctors to just four in the span of just a couple of months, a 50 percent reduction of full-time, in-person physicians. This is completely unacceptable. This is leading to a case-load of over 7,000 veterans for every doctor that we have.

My constituents have been telling me that they have to wait more than 90 days to get an appointment. Men and women who risk their lives for our freedom deserve better than months-long wait times to see a doctor.

As we consider the VA's budget this week, it is clear that we can do so much more to address the workforce shortages in my district and across the country at the VA. Our veterans deserve better.

Primary care is an essential part of every veteran's medical care, and it is on us to make sure that that care is never in jeopardy. I will continue to fight for the funding to fully staff our clinics until we get that done.

PROVIDING FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE OF OUR NATION

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, both fiscal year 2024 appropriations bills we are considering this week will ensure that the Federal Government fulfills one of its main duties outlined in the Constitution, providing for the common defense of our Nation.

Until our Republican majority took over, this body neglected this duty and failed to prepare our Nation for the threats posed by China and Russia. Our Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill will provide our military with the resources they need to succeed.

This funding will be focused on investments in the Pacific theater, barracks, and other quality-of-life projects so that our men and women in uniform will be ready to meet any challenge that they face.

Additionally, our agricultural appropriations bill will invest in strengthening our supply chain, so we don't have to rely on foreign adversaries for necessities like food and medications.

In passing both of these critical bills, we provide for the safety and the prosperity of our great Nation for generations to come.

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RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING LESLIE MERRILL

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a great Mainer and a longtime public servant, Leslie Merrill. Leslie is retiring this month after 22 years of dedicated constituent service to the people of Maine's First District, having served under my predecessor before joining my office.

I believe that the majority of us who work in this institution do so because we want to improve the lives of those around us.

Leslie has committed her career to doing just that—whether guiding asylum seekers and refugees through the immigration process, securing passports for many anxious travelers, or assisting Maine youth with the Academy nominations process so that they may pursue a career in the military.

Beyond her considerable skills as a caseworker, she has been a mentor to countless staff, sharing her Rolodex,

her institutional knowledge, and her relationships with those in agencies across the country, all of which have been invaluable to constituents and colleagues throughout the First District.

Importantly, she has been a treasured friend to so many of us in and outside of the office. The lives of Mainers are infinitely better for Leslie having served as their advocate, friend, and neighbor.

We will miss Leslie dearly. We wish her and Peter the very best in their next adventure.

WADSWORTH BLUE TIP FESTIVAL 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the annual Blue Tip Festival in Wadsworth, Ohio.

The Blue Tip Festival is a long-standing community celebration. The festival's name pays tribute to the city's former largest employer, the Ohio Match Company and their famous blue tip matches.

Each year, the Blue Tip Festival begins the Tuesday after Father's Day with a 2½-mile parade. The parade leads to the ceremonial lighting of a 17-foot blue tip match sculpture that holds the record for the world's largest matchstick sculpture. The next 5 days are filled with family fun like amusement rides, carnival games, festival food, and more.

I commend the city of Wadsworth and the Blue Tip Festival Committee for their commitment to make the Blue Tip Festival one of the best celebrations in Ohio's Seventh District. Year after year, their dedication has created a space for our community to recognize and enjoy Ohio's rich history. Here is to another safe and fun 50 years of the Blue Tip Festival.

UPS-TEAMSTERS

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the historic labor deal reached between the Teamsters and UPS. This is a monumental achievement for organized labor, underscoring the power of unions that make up the backbone of our economy and our democracy.

I would especially like to recognize Teamsters Local 348, which represents UPS workers in Ohio's 13th Congressional District.

These hardworking, dedicated union members were on the front lines throughout the entire pandemic, keeping our country running by consistently delivering essential supplies, food, and medicine to communities

across our district, as well as throughout the country.

This historic contract acknowledges their hard work and sacrifices and raises the bar for all workers in all industries.

I was proud to join my Labor Caucus colleagues last week in sending a bipartisan letter reaffirming my constituents' right to collectively bargain, and I will always stand with workers to support higher wages, safer working conditions, and better benefits.

Congratulations, again, to the 340,000 Teamsters at UPS, and I thank them for their dedication to setting a new standard for workers across the country.

SUPPORTING AMERICAN FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND RURAL COMMUNITIES

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to speak about the fiscal year '24 Agriculture Appropriations bill, specifically how this legislation supports American farmers and ranchers by slashing regulations and reducing spending back to prepandemic levels.

Georgia is the top poultry producer in the Nation. Our poultry industry generates an economic impact of \$28 billion for our State.

This bill eliminates harmful regulations that unnecessarily dictate how to raise and market livestock which negatively impact Georgia producers and consumers alike. It also cuts spending to account for the end of the COVID pandemic emergency by saving \$32 billion in taxpayer dollars.

My colleagues and I in the House are going to have the opportunity to discuss this legislation and support our rural communities and farmers.

RECOGNIZING IRENE PEREZ PLOKE SGAMBELLURI

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri. A proud mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, and a World War II survivor are just some of the words used to describe Ms. Irene Perez Ploke Sgambelluri, or as many call her, Aunty Irene.

Aunty Irene has been a fighter for World War II survivors, a champion for Guam's Greatest Generation, and one who has worked tirelessly over the decades to ensure that those who endured the atrocities of the occupation are recognized by the Federal Government.

Aunty Irene advocated for the payments of World War II reparations for decades, and the fruits of her labor were rewarded when former President Donald Trump enacted legislation to ensure these reparations were fulfilled.

During the month our community celebrates Guam's liberation, I honor her for her years of advocacy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Aunty Irene, and may God continue to bless her and her family.

RECOGNIZING NORTHSIDE HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING CLASS 3 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

(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 today to congratulate the Northside High School Women's Softball team on winning the class 3 State championship, the program's first State title since 2010 and its second win in history.

Beating the York Falcons by 3-1, the Vikings delivered strong performances needed to win.

These talented athletes include Baylee Compton, McKenzie Taylor, Leila Aguilar, Sydney Jordan, Karlee Austin, and Abbie Caldwell.

Baylee pitched a five-hitter for the Vikings, striking out 16 of the Falcons' players and walking one.

The Vikings scored twice in the top of the fifth to grab a 2-1 lead. In the seventh inning, the ladies scored another run, then held strong on defense to prevent the Falcons from catching up.

Mr. Speaker, all of these young ladies are a true testament that with hard work and determination, you can achieve your dreams.

We congratulate, again, all of the players, Coach Kassie Brammer, their families, as well as the Northside faculty and staff.

Virginia's Sixth Congressional District is incredibly proud of their accomplishment.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4366, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 9, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO "ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN; THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT"; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S.J. RES. 24, PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO "ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; ENDANGERED SPECIES STATUS FOR NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT"

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 614 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 614

Resolved, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. Points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 or clause 5(a) of rule XXI are waived.

SEC. 2. (a) No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of this resolution, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of this resolution.

(b) Each amendment printed in the report of the Committee on Rules shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be