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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 12, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

FIX SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise this morning to welcome everyone back to Congress, where hopefully we will get something done.

There was an ominous note sent by the Speaker earlier in a press conference that there will be an impeachment proceeding, an inquiry. I don't think that is what the American people are ready for back home.

They also said that they are here to shut down government. We need to shut down government? What the American people need is what everyone gave speeches about yesterday, talking about how after September 11 we all came together as a country and focused on what needs to be done.

I have a great suggestion for you. How about we fix Social Security for the Americans that need it. We talk to the veterans and we talk to all the individuals who were first responders and tell them how much we appreciate what they do, but then we never vote that way in Congress.

It has been 52 years since Congress has done anything to enhance Social Security. It has been 52 years and no action. How about we do something unique in this body and get a vote on Social Security.

Every Member has a Social Security card. You know exactly how many of your constituents receive a Social Security check, something that is an earned benefit, something that they have paid for and worked all their lives.

Yet, we are content here in this body to let 5 million fellow Americans in all your districts, 5 million Americans get a below-poverty level check from the Federal Government when what they need is subsistence to survive.

How about we get together as a body and come together and enhance the greatest insurance program in the Nation's history, the number one anti-poverty program for the elderly, and the number one anti-poverty for children. There are 10,000 baby boomers a day—if you are out there, baby boomers, call your Members and ask them to take a vote on Social Security.

Look at your pay stub. It says FICA, Federal Insurance Contributions. Whose? Yours. And this Congress hasn't done anything for 52 years. It is long overdue. Think of this as an economic development. If you think this is

socialism, think about all the constituents in your district that are going to get a paycheck. Think about the economic activity. Where do they spend that money? Right back in your district.

They need your help. The Nation needs your help. We need to come together and unite and enhance Social Security, not just protect it, not cut it, as some have suggested, but to actually protect and expand the Nation's number one program that helps the elderly and helps our children of this great country of ours.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LEAH SHACKLEY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Leah Shackley of Bedford County, Pennsylvania, who won a second gold medal this past Thursday at the World Junior Aquatic Swimming Championship in Israel as a member of Team USA.

A senior in high school, Leah has won races across the country, and now around the world. Through her commitment to training at both the Blair Regional YMCA in Hollidaysburg and in her family's pond in Bedford County, Leah has shown that hard work and determination can provide an incredible recipe for success.

As she represents both our district and our Nation, Leah faced tough competition from over 600 athletes representing 100 nations. During the team relay event, Leah set a personal record in the 100-meter butterfly with a time of 57.75 seconds.

With Leah's continued success in the water and her support of friends and

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neighbors in Bedford, she continues to set an incredible example for student athletes in central Pennsylvania.

On behalf of all of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I congratulate Leah and all of Team USA on their success in the World Junior Aquatics Swimming Championship.

PASS A FARM BILL THAT ENSURES AMERICA'S SECURITY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, during the August district work period, I traveled over 3,200 miles across central and western Pennsylvania.

As I met with members of our agricultural community, from orchard growers in Adams County to dairy farmers in Cambria County, I saw firsthand the need for Congress to pass a farm bill that supports the farmers in our rural communities.

This legislation is vital to ensuring America continues providing our country with abundant and affordable food. Very simply put, food security is national security, and now more than ever we need a farm bill that addresses the concerns facing our Pennsylvania farmers.

As production costs continue to soar because of President Biden's inflationary policies, we must find ways to ensure that our food remains affordable for families, while also protecting our local farmers.

We need to better target resources to maintain our commitment to rural farmers and the rural development that is at the cusp of what they do. What we don't need is legislation that overregulates and overburdens the farmers that we rely on to grow the food and provide the dairy products and the wholesome grains that are so important to the economy and to the health of all Americans.

It is time to pass a farm bill that ensures our security and allows at the same time for our farmers to prosper.

AMERICA'S POLITICAL CONS AND SCANDALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge House Republicans to investigate one of modern America's biggest scandals and political cons.

Why did the Saudi Government give Jared Kushner \$2 billion just months after he left the Trump White House?

Kushner, who oversaw Middle East policy for his father-in-law, has enriched himself and his family in what is clearly an enormous grift and likely serious conflict of interest crimes.

Let's review: First, Jared Kushner conned his way to a cushy White House job with no clear job description and no experience. Then he took it upon himself to prioritize pushing out the U.S. Secretary of State so he could cozy up to the Saudi Government.

Once he was close enough to the Saudis, we have records of a \$110 billion arms deal between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia that was inflated at the direction of Jared Kushner.

Mere months after Kushner exits the White House, what happens? The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia overrules his own advisers and sends \$2 billion to Kushner's company bank account.

In the exact words of Republican Chris Christie, who I will quote: "The grift from this family is breathtaking. It is breathtaking. Jared Kushner and Ivanka Kushner walk out of the White House, and months later get \$2 billion from the Saudis."

Some colleagues from across the aisle have explicitly said the Kushner family has engaged in business dealings that may have crossed the ethical line, and I agree, yet they refuse to act.

Is this the same party that is obsessed with President Biden's family?

The American people deserve answers, and I urge my colleagues across the aisle to answer our calls and subpoena Jared Kushner's company once and for all.

REMEMBERING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 TERROR ATTACKS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, yesterday marked the 22nd anniversary of the September 11 terror attacks. I rise today to remember the innocent lives that were lost.

At 8:46 a.m., American Flight 11 flew into Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. Not long after that, Flight 175 roared over lower Manhattan into Tower 2.

While Americans around the country were grappling with the events that just transpired, a third plane, Flight 77, crashed into the Pentagon, the center of our Armed Forces and national defense.

In southwest Pennsylvania, the fourth flight, United 93, originally headed to San Francisco, was hijacked and made an abrupt turn toward Washington, D.C. But because of the brave passengers and crew members who attempted to take back the plane, it crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

In the days, weeks, months, and now two decades that followed September 11, our country joined together to face the very evil which attempted to take us down.

We will forever be indebted to our servicemen and servicewomen who join the fight to protect our freedoms, and we must remember the sacrifices made by our servicemembers and their families every day since.

While today's world has grown no less dangerous, we as Americans are resilient. We will continue to fight the evil and terror that exists today, and

we will continue to be a beacon of the freedom to the world.

Let us reflect on the gift of life so tragically lost at the World Trade Center in New York City, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

Let us honor the memory of every American who perished on that fateful day. Their legacies will be forever intertwined with the strength and courage that defined our great country. We will never forget, not 22 years later, not ever.

Madam Speaker, this message of "never forget" was evident on Friday when I attended the Penn State University's 9/11 memorial service. This service is held the Friday before September 11, usually before a home football game, to unite the community ahead of Patriot Day. For the entire weekend, families, students, and guests in State College saw the flags and remember the innocent lives taken from us that day.

Students from college Republicans, college Democrats, the student body government, and members of the Penn State community joined together to remember the innocent lives lost.

In front of Old Main, the community placed 2,977 flags, each one representing a soul, a person, a family member that was taken from us. We also read the names of the 10 Penn State alumni who died in the attacks.

At the beginning of the memorial, Hunter, a sophomore at the university, said that while he was born 2 years after the attacks, he recognizes the importance of taking the time to remember that fateful day.

This is what we mean when we say, "never forget." Those who lived through the day will always have the date burned into our minds. It is the actions of those who were not yet born that show Americans will truly never forget.

We will also remember that we are and always will be the land of the free, only because of the home of the brave.

May God continue to watch over our first responders, our men and women in uniform, and all those who keep us safe.

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CELEBRATING THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF AUKUS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, Friday, September 15, will mark the second anniversary of AUKUS, a historic new security agreement between the Governments of the United States, Australia, and the United Kingdom that will integrate the most sophisticated technologies amongst the three countries, including quantum computing, undersea warfare, hypersonics, and cyber, to name just a few, in order