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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON 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:

Let all who believe in You, O God, offer their supplications, their prayers, their intercessions, and their thanksgivings on behalf of our leaders and all who serve in positions of authority. Let us each pause to take advantage of the privilege You have given us to pray for the men and women of this Congress.

Lay on us, the American people, the awareness of our responsibility to raise our voices, not to condemn or cajole, but to pray to You, that You would intercede for our lawmakers, and to give thanks to You, showing our deeper gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

O God, our creator, redeemer, and sustainer, we lay before You our hopes and fears. In You, and not in powers and principalities, parties or people, do we find the strength and hope we need to find our way in these challenging days.

Let all who are in authority, engaging in today's challenges and making decisions that impact the entire American citizenry, do so with a clear and

certain awareness of Your guidance and support, Your counsel, and Your caution.

In the strength of Your name, then, we lift up the leadership of this body, every Member who serves with commitment to the common good, every debate and demand, that You would stand in the breach of our impasses, mediate our differences, and lead us in the way You would have us go.

In the peace we find only 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 Virginia (Mr. GOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia 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.

RECOGNIZING DANVILLE POLICE OFFICERS

(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 recognize the Danville Police Department officers who recently received the 2023 Valor Award. Each year, the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police recognizes law enforcement officers who perform an act of extraordinary heroism while engaged with an adversary at imminent personal risk in the line of duty; presenting them the Valor Award, the highest award offered by the association.

Corporal Todd J. Hawkins, Officer Lance I. Neighbors, Detective Lieutenant John D. Dixon, Detective Sergeant Richard Wright, and Detective Jordan T. Land were recognized with this reward.

These officers were responding to a robbery when the suspect began firing at them. One officer returned fire, and the detectives chased the suspect by car until he crashed and fled the scene on foot. After finding the criminal as he was attempting to break into an occupied residence, the detectives de-escalated the situation and convinced the individual to surrender.

Displaying the utmost valor and courage, these members of the Danville Police Department were rightfully selected to receive this reward. They deserve our deepest gratitude for keeping our communities safe.

I am honored to represent such an outstanding group of officers, and I thank them for their continued service and sacrifice.

REMOVE CUBA FROM THE SST LIST

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, current U.S. policy towards Cuba is best described as continuing the sanctions and policies of Donald Trump.

□ 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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Every day, our policies hurt the Cuban people. One thing the United States can do to provide relief is to remove Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

There is absolutely no reason for Cuba to be on that list, none. And its impact affects nearly every global, financial, and economic institution. Many European nations and U.S. allies want to help relieve the suffering of the Cuban people, especially in the areas of health and basic needs. But their hands are tied because of the SST list and its onerous financial restrictions and punishments.

Our policy is a relic from the Cold War, and quite frankly, it is cruel. It drives increased migration to our southern border, and it makes no sense. It is an embarrassment.

Madam Speaker, I voted for Joe Biden, not Donald Trump. The President needs to do better. He could begin by removing Cuba from the State Sponsors of Terrorism list today.

HONORING SERGEANT RICHARD M. SHARROW

(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 rise today to remember the life of Sergeant Richard Sharrow of Marienville, Pennsylvania.

Army Sergeant Richard M. Sharrow was reported missing on July 25, 1950, at the age of 22. Sergeant Sharrow was deemed missing after his unit sustained heavy casualties while defending against the North Korean army's advance near Yongdong, South Korea.

Last week, Sergeant Sharrow's remains were returned home. On Monday, with full military honors, he was laid to rest in Marienville.

Madam Speaker, we still feel the pain of those missing from conflicts fought generations ago, and we are forever indebted to their service. My prayers are with Sergeant Sharrow's family during this solemn time. It is my hope with his return his family is able to find peace and solace in knowing their loved one died a hero in service to the Nation.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my Republican colleagues to stop the partisan brinksmanship and join House Democrats and Senate Democrats and Republicans in our efforts to fully fund the government.

Back in April, Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans negotiated a deal with the White House to avoid a catastrophic default on our national debt, which stipulated fiscal year 2024

spending levels remain at 2023 levels. It passed with bipartisan support 314-117. Now Speaker MCCARTHY is reneging on this agreement as the extreme MAGA Republican wing of his chaos caucus drives us towards a government shutdown.

Realizing that their extreme agenda cannot pass on its own merits and does not align with the wishes of the American people, they are attempting to load down must-pass pieces of legislation with their harmful policy riders and severe cuts. The American people deserve better.

In Virginia, we have the second highest number of Federal employees. We have over 130,000 Active-Duty military personnel who will be wondering if they can get paid. It is a very big deal. They deserve better, and I urge my Republican colleagues to stop their games and stop holding the appropriations process hostage.

CZESTOCHOWA

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to commemorate a milestone of endurance in the heart of Texas. In 1854 a brave community of Polish families planted their roots in Karnes County, founding the settlement of Virgin Mary, or Panna Maria, in their beloved Silesian dialect.

Through droughts and hardships, they built churches. They built schools, and businesses. With resilience they flourished and enriched the Lone Star State. Residents in the surrounding areas had to travel miles across creeks and open prairies in order to attend church.

In 1873, a group of these original immigrants and descendants decided to venture a few miles up the road to establish a new church and parish. The land was donated, and funds were raised to begin the project. Initial construction was completed in 1878.

The residents renamed and christened their community Czestochowa, honoring their roots. The church dedicated to the nativity of the blessed Virgin Mary stands as a testament to their faith and unity.

As Karnes County proclaims October as Polish American Heritage Month, we honor these pioneers, and may their story continue to inspire us.

PAY WORKERS WHAT THEY'VE EARNED ACT

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

Mr. HORSFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce my legislation, the Pay Workers What They've Earned Act.

As we face this extreme MAGA Republican shutdown caused by Speaker MCCARTHY's unwillingness to work in a

bipartisan fashion, we must remember the lessons of past shutdowns.

The Republicans are hell-bent on shutting down the Federal Government, harming thousands of Nevadan workers and small business contractors, wreaking havoc on our economy, and impacting essential services for women and children, our military, and causing delays to Medicare and Social Security payments to seniors. It is wrong. It is unacceptable. It is why I am committed to supporting a bipartisan solution to keep government working for my constituents in Nevada.

Madam Speaker, my legislation would reimburse Federal employees for fees and interest and fines charged through no fault of their own during a government shutdown. The bill would also reimburse State and Tribal Governments for costs incurred during government shutdowns. As thousands of Federal employees and small business contractors learned in previous sessions, simply reopening the government doesn't help them pay their credit card fees or their overdue rent notices.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. HORSFORD. This is something you may not understand, but the hard-working people of Nevada's Fourth do.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

MICRONESIA MALL 35TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and celebrate a remarkable milestone, the 35th anniversary of the Micronesia Mall. This celebration is a testament to the vision, dedication, and hard work that have shaped the mall, their businesses, and the island of Guam into what it is today.

Since 1988, the mall, under the leadership of the Goodwind Development Corporation, has been a beacon of economic success in the region, providing goods and services to locals and tourists alike as the largest shopping center in Micronesia. As I speak here today, I look back at an incredible 35 years, while also looking forward to seeing what the mall will establish in the future with new opportunities, challenges, and accomplishments on the horizon.

I am confident in the mall's dedication to the island, and I wish the mall a sincere congratulations and may the legacy of the mall continue to shine in our hearts and in our community.

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY AIR FORCE ROTC

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address