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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

RECOGNIZING FIRE CAPTAIN KIRK MITCHELL

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of Fire Captain Kirk Mitchell and to thank him for his service to our country and to our community.

From becoming a volunteer firefighter at the age of 16 to joining the United States Marine Corps at the age of 18, Kirk Mitchell set out early in life to care for those in need of help and to protect those who could not protect themselves.

Kirk would go on to work as an EMT, a public safety instructor, and an emergency management officer.

His extensive work took him from California to Puerto Rico to aid those who had been affected by wildfires and floods.

Throughout all of his work, Captain Mitchell has maintained a connection with Blair County, Pennsylvania, serving as a steadfast member of the Altoona Fire Department.

Kirk's commitment to protecting lives and supporting his fellow fire-

fighters has been a hallmark of his wonderful career.

On behalf of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District, I wish Kirk every continued success.

SOCIALIST POLICIES HAVE NO PLACE IN OUR SOCIETY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it was 34 years ago that the Iron Curtain finally fell, revealing to the world the horrible truths of socialism and providing a stark contrast between the United States and the enemies who wish to do us harm.

In the Capitol rotunda, we keep a warning of the dangers of socialism. A piece of the Berlin Wall is embedded in the base of the statue of President Ronald Reagan who championed the work of ending socialism around the world.

From Venezuela to the Soviet Union, from Fidel Castro in Cuba to Kim Jong-un in North Korea, every attempt to build a socialist or communist society has only led to ruin.

Socialism is a tyranny that we can no longer afford to ignore.

As this administration continues to pick winners and losers in our economy and as President Biden continues to cancel debts for liberal elites on the backs of working Americans, it is time for us to clearly state that socialist policies have no place in our democracy. It is time for our country to return to the ideals of our Founding Fathers.

Our country was built on the belief that we are all created with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights can only be fulfilled if we live in a Nation, a Nation that is truly free. We must condemn socialism in all of its forms.

It was President Reagan who once said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for and protected."

We cannot afford to let our country be governed by socialist policies. We must protect our freedoms, and we must protect our liberties at all costs.

A REAL CASE OF UNFAIRNESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to remember and honor twin sisters Katrina and Leslie. Their story is one of tragedy, as they both are resting with our maker in heaven. Their memories have and shall continue to be shared with their loved ones.

Katrina and Leslie were born with disabilities. As they were growing up, they required a caretaker to address their basic needs.

These twins were loveable and stole the hearts of those they met. Katrina and Leslie were also emotionally strong. They wanted to be raised like other kids but knew that their conditions were permanent and they wouldn't be able to participate in sports, attend a prom, or get a job.

They accepted the reality of their life, but they knew they had each other, and they had a loving family. The two were living in the State of Pennsylvania and received Supplemental Security Income, SSI, benefits that helped their caretaker purchase necessities.

Unfortunately, their caretaker, who was their mother, passed away unexpectedly. Leslie and Katrina once again found themselves enduring another unbearable hardship. Because of their conditions and the undertaking it would require to care for not one but two disabled individuals, the sisters were separated.

Leslie stayed in the State of Pennsylvania and continued to receive SSI benefits. Katrina was taken in by her

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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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mom's sister, who is married to my childhood friend, Dr. John Fegurgur. The couple brought her to Guam, and within 30 days of leaving Pennsylvania, Katrina lost her SSI benefits.

Why, you may ask?

Because of a Federal inequity which denies American citizens who reside in most territories the rights to secure SSI benefits. This Federal law strips away the financial benefits from American citizens with disabilities who relocate from a State to Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, or Puerto Rico.

We need to change this inequity. Why are U.S. citizens who reside in U.S. territories denied benefits they can attain if they were residing in a State?

This is a real case of unfairness.

Did you know that Guam has among the highest per capita numbers of enlisted members in the United States armed services throughout the Nation?

Yes, we, too, are proud Americans.

There have been lawsuits to fix this inequity, and the courts have simply ruled that SSI benefits were created by Congress and, hence, can be changed by Congress. So let's change it and do what is right.

Katrina and Leslie are both no longer with us in the world today. In Leslie's final days, she said she sadly wouldn't be able to witness when this wrong would be made right.

While neither sister may be here, let us fix this inequity in their names and the names of many others who have been denied this benefit just because they reside in a U.S. territory.

REGULAR ORDER HAS RETURNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, thanks to House Republicans, regular order has been restored in the people's House.

From expedited votes to open, substantive debate on the merits of legislation that now take place on this very floor, the American people are seeing meaningful progress occur in real time, and it is so wonderful to see people in the gallery and in the halls of this Capitol.

One-party rule in Washington had corrupted the legislative process for 2 years, and it failed every single American.

Mr. Speaker, as part of House Republicans' Commitment to America, we highlighted our plan to ensure a government that is accountable.

Every day, we are acting upon that commitment and placing accountability and transparency at the feet of the American people. This is exactly what good governance is all about. Our colleagues on the other side of the aisle should take note.

ANOTHER IOWAN HEADS THE WORLD FOOD PRIZE FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Iowa's former Governor and Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad for being appointed as the President of the World Food Prize Foundation.

Founded by Iowa's Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, the World Food Prize Foundation aims to improve food security around the world. Each year, leaders in the agriculture industry travel to Des Moines to discuss the latest global agriculture issues and recognize individuals who have made distinguished accomplishments in the industry.

Governor Branstad played an integral role in creating the Iowa Hunger Summit during his time as Iowa's and the Nation's longest serving Governor. The Iowa Hunger Summit has been instrumental in combating food insecurity in Iowa and around the world in large part because of Governor Branstad's efforts.

I am excited to see how Governor Branstad will help the World Food Prize Foundation evolve, and I am confident that his experience and background will help the foundation further its mission to eliminate world hunger. I can think of no better fit for the job.

Congratulations, Governor Branstad.

I also wish a happy birthday to Caroline Bender. Happy birthday, Caroline.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, hear the supplications of Your people. We lay before You our greatest concerns, our innermost thoughts, and the whole of our hopes and fears. And when You hear us, forgive us for any doubt, any reluctance, and any failure to believe that You will answer.

Silence, then, all voices but Your own. May the words in our heads and our hearts be quiet. We who speak for a living, who have devoted our lives to fixing what is broken, and stepping into right wrongs are uncomfortable sitting back and waiting for Your word, listening for Your guidance.

So then when You do speak, when You make clear the direction You

would have us go, the work You have called us to do, the lives You have designed us to live, may we be open to receive Your divine direction.

With ears to hear from even the most unlikely source, and eyes to see what You reveal from the viewpoint of Your throne, and with the hearts open to the stirrings of Your Holy Spirit, may we prove worthy of Your attention and faithful in our response this day.

In Your sovereign and most gracious 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.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ALFORD 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.

DONALD MEANS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, I was grateful to attend the campaign kickoff for Donald Trump at the South Carolina State House in Columbia with the former President, Governor Henry McMaster, and Ambassador Ed McMullen.

My public service has been committed to promoting job creation with the slogan of "Joe Means Jobs." That is why I appreciate the success of Governor McMaster last year recruiting over \$10 billion in investments. This enhances South Carolina as being first