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No. 185

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 8, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRANDON WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Merciful God, look down on us from Your holy temple; from Your heavenly throne give heed to our prayers. For there is much we need to lay before You this day.

Place on Your scales of justice the confusion that is the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Release the captives from the crosshairs of their enemies. Liberate the innocent victims of unspeakable and heinous criminality. Free those who find themselves hostages of hate, then expose those whose prejudice fuels their death grip on whole peoples.

Unearth those who conceal themselves in the shadows. Draw them out from their hiding places and hold them hostage to the judgment they deserve for their cruelty.

Lord, purge us all from the hate that motivates hostility wherever it is found. Save us from the vitriol that poisons even the most noble efforts intended to disarm the violence that pervades our world and threatens our communities.

We stand in need of Your mercy and pray in the sovereignty of Your name.

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 Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CYBERSECURITY TRAINING

(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. Mr. Speaker, last week, I introduced the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act with Congresswoman and co-chair of the Career and Technical Education Caucus, SUZANNE BONAMICI.

In high-risk critical infrastructure sectors, like telecommunications, agriculture, or healthcare, a workforce with basic cyber skills is essential to our public safety. Unfortunately, many skilled workers lack any cybersecurity training specific to the systems they work on daily.

Our society is increasingly reliant on cyber technologies for our most critical infrastructure. As bad actors increase cyberattacks, we must ensure we are protecting our most sensitive data. This legislation empowers the next generation of learners to have the most sophisticated and comprehensive education to better protect our essential systems and assets for years to come.

The bipartisan Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act would fund the development of critical infrastructure CTE programs that integrate cybersecurity. This is a bipartisan issue that both the Trump and Biden administrations have placed increased focus on.

This legislation would align CTE programs with industry needs by giving businesses a seat at the table with postsecondary institutions crafting programs that ensure students are learning relevant skills, including cybersecurity competencies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, we operate on a September 30 fiscal year. Here we are 39 days later, and the majority has yet to even propose a way to keep the government open.

Last September, they kicked the can down the road and kept the government open for 45 days. In the words of Mr. SANTOS, that made you all "big mad." You fired your Speaker. You have a new Speaker. A lot of you are still big mad. Instead of working, we are sitting here this week debating nonsense.

Here is an example. Lots of American companies operate overseas. Outside of the U.S. Republican Party, climate change is real, which means that U.S.

□ 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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companies have to comply with scientifically informed policy.

The Biden administration is appropriately trying to help develop U.S. climate reporting rules that are also scientifically informed to minimize the hassle of multijurisdictional reporting.

The Republican response to that is big mad. Today, we are voting on a bill that would defund the ability of regulators to develop consistent climate accounting rules instead of doing the work of the people.

Mr. Speaker, science is real. We have real challenges. Please stop being big mad.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF MIKE MERNICK OF THE WAR- WICK FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the heroic actions of Deputy Chief Mike Mernick of the Warwick Fire Department.

Mike and his wife, Tara, were enjoying a night out in Providence, not long ago, when they noticed a fire had broken out at a nearby home on Goddard Street.

When he saw the smoke coming out of the triple-decker and realized there were people trapped inside the building, the off-duty, 28-year-old firefighter sprang into action.

He ran into the burning building with two Providence police officers at his side, covered in no protective gear or equipment. He just knew there was no time to waste.

They headed up two flights of smoke-filled stairs where they found a mother with her two children and rushed them out to safety. Mernick remained in the building, clearing each floor, as the fire raged around him.

Thanks to the quick actions of Deputy Chief Mernick and the two officers, all eight people in the building were rescued safely.

Deputy Chief Mernick's actions are a reminder that firefighters are heroes in every sense of the word.

PROPOSED CUTS ON AMTRAK

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

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, this week, President Biden announced more than \$16 billion in Federal funding for the Northeast Corridor, the busiest in the United States, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

While that is a very admirable and needed effort, I would like to call attention to the LOSSAN Corridor, the second busiest rail corridor, which runs right through my district. It is the only rail link between San Diego and Los Angeles.

The integrity of the LOSSAN Corridor is arguably at greater risk than

any other corridor in the country. It runs along the Pacific Ocean and has repeatedly closed due to climate change-induced sea level rise, collapsing bluffs, and eroding beaches. That has cost our economy millions of dollars per year and impacts my constituents' ability to get where they need to go.

The LOSSAN Corridor is the busiest State-supported route for Amtrak, which is currently facing 64 percent funding cuts in the Republican T-HUD appropriations bill.

This is the wrong approach. We must invest in Amtrak and associated infrastructure. I will continue to advocate for the Biden administration to invest in the LOSSAN Corridor so California can get its fair share of resources.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my partners in California, and especially Governor Newsom, for continuing to fight for this historic investment.

HONORING THE VETERANS OF OUR COUNTRY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the veterans of our country. There are over 16,000 veterans in my district.

Mr. Speaker, 16,000 people have given their heart and soul to our Nation. For so many, that call to serve has affected their health.

In my district alone, the VA has received 1,164 claims under the PACT Act as of this October. That was possible because of the incredible work of House Democrats to pass this law last Congress.

Currently, many VA centers lack the ability to provide care for gynecological cancers. That leaves female veterans to search for their own care. That must change. We need to fight for our female veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to reintroducing the Veterans' Cancer Care Coordinator Act this week. This bill would create coordinators to help female veterans receive the care they need from diagnosis through remission. This builds on the successful Maternal Care Coordination program at the VA.

As a Nation, we must protect our Nation's heroes. We must also put veterans above politics. We must thank them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the veterans for their service.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING PAULA SANDS

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

Mr. SORESEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a local leader in broadcast news and fellow Quad citizen.

For more than 40 years, families in our region could count on the friendly

demeanor and seasoned professionalism of Paula Sands on KWQC TV 6 News.

Paula boasts an accomplished career, taking the helm as the region's youngest woman to host her own TV show at the age of 23. Since then, and for the past three decades, she hosted "Paula Sands Live", a news show dedicated to current events and local businesses.

She is an Emmy award winner. She has taken a seat in the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences' Silver Circle.

All the while, Paula served her hometown as a trusted voice.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to enter the contributions of such a legendary figure into the RECORD. I wish Paula Sands my sincerest gratitude and well-wishes as she enters retirement.

FINANCIAL SERVICES AND GEN- ERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIA- TIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4664, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 847 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4664.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0912

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4664) making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. WILLIAMS of New York in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member on the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to begin consideration of H.R. 4664, the fiscal