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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. CLINE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN CLINE 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:

Unto You, O Lord, we offer our prayers. Unto You who is able to do immeasurably more than all we could ask or imagine, we lift up our hopes, our fears, our anxieties, and our expectations to You and pray that Your power would be at work within us as we serve You in this place.

For we are Your servants and public servants graced with both the ability and opportunity to exercise our responsibility to the governance of this country, the support and defense of its Constitution, and the preservation of the welfare of our fellow Americans.

Grant, then, that with these profound duties before us that we remain faithful to what is true, what is honorable, and what is right, that neither adamance nor ignorance would blind us to righteousness. May we safeguard what is pure and lovely, that neither ill will nor self-interest would poison our discourse.

But with boldness and confidence, with our faith in You, may we gain access to Your wisdom and direction in accordance with Your will.

In the power of Your name we dare to 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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BURGESS. 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. BURGESS. 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina 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.

RECOGNIZING ED SKALA

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ed Skala, who this month celebrates 25 years of service to this august institution, the United States House of Representatives.

For those of us who have had the privilege to work with Ed, one word stands out above the rest, and that is dedication. His tireless commitment to his craft and to our Financial Services Committee is immediately noticed by all those who have been graced with his company.

His dedication is topped perhaps only by his wit and ability to remember the smallest of details from 20 years ago.

I have always said about this institution that it would not run and lawmakers would not be able to do their job without the dedication and professionalism of the staff here. The staff make this place work, and Ed stands out as a shining example of that.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of us, I thank Ed for all he has done and continues to do for the Financial Services Committee, for the institution as a whole, and for the United States Government.

I congratulate Ed, and I hope he and Hera have a nice time.

CONDEMNING HATE ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to unequivocally condemn anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of hate on college campuses throughout our country.

The Massachusetts Seventh is known for its institutions of higher learning,

□ 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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and my office has heard from students, faculty, and administrators sounding the alarm on hateful rhetoric since the outbreak of war in Israel and Gaza.

Let me be clear: There is no justification for anti-Semitism or Islamophobia or any other form of hatred. Mr. Speaker, whether you wear a yarmulke or a hijab, you have a right to show up as your authentic self.

Doxing on the internet, violence at protests, and endangering people's lives must stop. We cannot become that which we condemn.

The only way forward is to center our shared humanity. I came to Congress to strengthen our communities, not to play politics with harmful resolutions of erasure or to defund civil rights by banning diversity and inclusion.

To the students of the Massachusetts Seventh of all faith traditions, I say this: Know that I see you. The world is better because of you. Your talents, skills, and passions will transform our society. Together, we can build a future rooted in radical love, not hate.

RECOGNIZING MARTENE FIRESTINE

(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, I rise today to recognize Martene Firestine and her outstanding work with the Pennsylvania Livestock Association.

For more than 18 years, Martene has worked tirelessly to raise money to support youth education scholarships. Her efforts have led to the awarding of 106 scholarships totaling more than \$11,000.

These scholarships are given to young individuals who have outstanding leadership skills and a keen interest in the livestock industry and who are involved in the Keystone International Livestock Expo, known as the KILE farm show, among other traits.

Students who receive the scholarships use the funds to further their education in any degree or field.

Mr. Speaker, Martene's efforts to support the next generation of leaders are impressive. She remains dedicated to helping others, and it is an honor to recognize her important work.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Martene on this much-deserved recognition. The Pennsylvania Livestock Association is blessed to have such a dedicated member.

SUMMARIZING INSIGHTS FROM THE AGRICULTURE LABOR WORKING GROUP

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the Agriculture Labor Work-

ing Group has conducted numerous sessions where we engaged with producers, workers, and stakeholders, all to understand the challenges they face within the H-2A program.

As a co-chair of the working group, we released an interim report this past week summarizing the various insights from these sessions. The witnesses we met with provided recommendations on how they believe the program can work better to ensure our growers can continue to feed and clothe the American people and beyond.

I look forward to continuing to work with Co-Chair CRAWFORD and the other dedicated members of the working group to craft a final report that offers bipartisan solutions to address the issues faced by our agriculture community and ensure a stronger and more resilient future for all.

MAUI MINUTE: RECOGNIZING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, today, for my Maui minute, I rise to recognize and extend a heartfelt mahalo to the brave first responders and disaster workers who rushed in to evacuate and support our people and communities since the devastating wildfires on Maui.

From police and firefighters to paramedics and 911 operators, these heroes play an essential role every day across our country, providing physical and emotional support to those who have been hit hard by disasters.

While they never cease in their important work in times of crisis, first responders often face their own barriers with seeking help and accessing the mental health services they need as they deal with their own trauma as a result of what they see and experience.

On Maui, many first responders and disaster workers were also victims and survivors themselves, losing loved ones and homes. Despite this, as the fires raged, they continued to serve and protect.

That is why, this week, I have introduced the Crisis Assistance and Resources in Emergencies for First Responders Act, or CARE for First Responders Act, to increase access to mental health care services specific to the unique needs and experiences of those on the front lines of disaster.

These brave men and women have answered the call each time we have needed them most. Now, it is our turn to do the same.

RECOGNIZING CITY OF DEARBORN VETERAN OF THE YEAR DAVID KLINE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes

David Kline. He is being recognized for his outstanding contributions by being named the City of Dearborn Veteran of the Year.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mr. Kline enlisted in the United States Army in 1966 after graduating from Detroit's Cody High School. During his 10 years and 11 months of service, Mr. Kline earned many commendations, awards, recognitions, and certifications, including the Army Commendation Medal as well as the Presidential Unit Citation, the Vietnam Gallantry Cross, the Good Conduct Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

As an engaged member of our community, Mr. Kline remains very active in numerous veteran organizations in southeast Michigan, including Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 267 and American Legion Post 364.

He is a passionate and dedicated resident of our community. We are honored to recognize him as Dearborn, Michigan's 2023 Veteran of the Year.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DELBERT MCDUGAL

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of my dear friend and a giant of a west Texan, Delbert McDougal, who passed away last week after 86 years of unwavering devotion to God, his family, and the Lubbock community.

Delbert was born and raised in Hockley County, USA, where he learned at a young age the importance of hard work by chopping weeds in a cotton patch for 45 cents an hour.

He met his wife, Carolyn, in 1954. Together, they started their family and began working to transform our community with countless real estate endeavors, including the largest privately financed urban renewal project in America.

The citizens of Lubbock enjoy a better quality of life and have a brighter future because of Delbert McDougal's big vision, his bold leadership, and his boundless love for all things west Texas.

God blessed west Texas with that great man, Delbert McDougal, and I pray that He will comfort the McDougal family in the days to come.

Go west Texas.

SUPPORTING OUR DEMOCRATIC ALLIES ISRAEL AND UKRAINE

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I just watched the 47-minute film provided by the Israeli Government for our Members to watch the horrors of Hamas and what they did on October 7. Everyone who saw that should never forget it and should give notice to the world of the barbarity and the horrific attack on the Israeli people.