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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 15, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONICA DE LA CRUZ 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:

When faced with the appalling tragedies that span the globe, revealing themselves in every corner of the Earth, from Ukraine to Israel and from Armenia to Gaza, to name just a few, Lord, how do we pray?

When constantly bombarded with news of devastating atrocities that defy any sense of humanity or decency, criminal acts of torture and abuse, unspeakable crimes against innocents, Lord, where do we turn?

When overwhelmed by the complex networks of terrorist operatives and inundated with confusing reports that blur the lines between truth and falsehood, which make it hard to distinguish perpetrator and victim, what can we rely on to find our answers?

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made Heaven and Earth.

When the enemy rises up against Your people, O God, when whole peoples are in danger of being swallowed up alive, when unbridled anger is kindled against them, do not let them be given as prey to the adversary. Allow them to escape the snare of their fowl-

ers. Lord, pluck them from the jaws of the enemy.

Holy God, deliver all who this day are held captive to the hostile vagaries of aggression wherever the evil one dares wield his power in Your world. Bring Your peace.

In the power of Your name we are bold 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 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. BOST 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 NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, this week marks the ninth annual National Apprenticeship Week, a time when we can give our Nation's workforce devel-

opment programs their annual physical.

Right now, there are more than 6 million Americans who are unemployed and more than 9 million job openings in our country. That is a real problem, Madam Speaker, and it is because the education-to-work pipeline is clearly fractured.

I have said time and time again that we need to promote workforce development programs that actually work. Let employers be the ones to lead the way on this front. Let free market solutions lead the way, as well.

Madam Speaker, earn-and-learn programs offer workers a viable path to pursue the American Dream on their own terms. We should do everything we can to support them.

HONORING MOTHER SARAH BELLE MINGO STEVENSON

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

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great leader from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community: Mother Sarah Mingo Stevenson.

After a lifetime devoted to public service in her community, to her church, and, most importantly, family, Sarah Stevenson left us at the grand age of 97 on September 26, 2023.

A Charlotte civil rights pioneer, she played a huge role in the creation of an influential forum for political and social dialogue in the city. The Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum continues to this day and is a required stop for candidates running for office in Charlotte and statewide.

As the first Black woman to serve on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, from 1980 to 1988, she carried on her work of activism from the seventies when she effected the desegregation of public schools in the district.

□ 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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Her courageous leadership and encouragement of small businesses, women, and civil groups over the years have been part of her undying legacy. She will be sorely missed.

I look forward to witnessing the many ways her legacy will continue to impact lives to make Charlotte and North Carolina a more just and fair place.

Sarah Stevenson earned the respect of men, women, and little children, and she made the world much better than she found it.

Rest in peace, Ms. Stevenson.

HONORING CRIS EDWARDS, NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

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

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Cris Edwards of Olney, Illinois, for her being named a National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals.

Cris is the principal of Richland County Elementary School, which serves nearly 1,000 rural students. The school's mission is to develop respectful and responsible learners and leaders. Under Cris Edwards' watch, that mission is being fulfilled.

Her devotion is recognized by students, parents, and teachers alike.

The school was given the high honor of a legacy school by the Leader in Me program. They host High Five Fridays to build connections in the community, and they launched a mobile library in an old school bus to deliver books in the summer.

Cris has earned her status as a National Distinguished Principal just as she has earned her position as the incoming president of the Illinois Principals Association.

Madam Speaker, please join me in recognizing Cris Edwards for all she has done to provide a positive learning environment for Richland County schoolchildren.

REMEMBERING LIVES LOST AND CALLING FOR A CEASE-FIRE

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

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, as Americans like me continue to fight to save lives, no matter faith or ethnicity, I hope we remember all lives lost.

I still remember the celebrations across Palestinian villages of Al Shaima, who earned the highest high school exam score, making Gaza proud. Al Shaima was a symbol of hope because even though she grew up in a refugee camp, she still succeeded with the highest score.

She was killed with members of her family when missiles hit the al-Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza.

Yousef Maher Dawas was a young poet and writer. He died alongside members of his family. His last words, Madam Speaker, were: "We are not numbers."

Viola and Yara, sisters, were killed at Saint Porphyrius Greek Orthodox Church, where a missile hit while hundreds of people were crowded into the compound seeking shelter. They were members of former Congressman Justin Amash's family. They were among at least 16 people killed at the church.

Madam Speaker, please know that silencing me silences Palestinian voices who are asking to live, so we must ask and demand a cease-fire now.

Madam Speaker, more information can be found at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/23/doctors-poets-families-babies-victims-of-israels-war-on-gaza>.

CONGRATULATING POLK COUNTY HIGH VOLLEYBALL TEAM

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Polk County High School volleyball team for winning the 1-A volleyball State championship for the first time in the school's history.

The Polk County Wolverines won last Saturday's championship game in a 3-0 win against Falls Lake Academy.

Outside hitter Sophia Overholt, who averaged nearly three kills per set, was named MVP of the State finals.

While the Wolverines have no shortage of impressive individual players, their strong bond as a team led them to this historic victory.

As Michael Jordan, another great North Carolinian, once said: "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Wolverines. I wish them all the best in their future endeavors, and I encourage them to continue to strive for excellence on and off the court.

They have made western North Carolina proud.

RESTORING TRUST IN U.S. ECONOMY

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

Mr. NICKEL. Madam Speaker, last week Moody's changed its rating outlook on the United States Government from stable to negative. This was a direct consequence of partisan gridlock, continued political polarization, and the chaos and confusion that we see playing out here on the House floor with 19 votes for Speaker already.

That is why it was so important that we passed a short-term government funding bill to keep the Federal Government open through January. Avoid-

ing a government shutdown will help restore trust in the United States economy and ensure that working families aren't affected by the chaos and confusion that we, again, see playing out here in Washington.

As we look ahead, we must continue to put people over politics and deliver a real budget that funds critical services, secures our border, and supports our allies in Israel and Ukraine.

I remain ready to work in a bipartisan way to deliver results for the American people.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF ERIC FAGAN AND HONORING HIS LEGACY

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

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, as we honor our veterans, I rise to mourn the loss of Eric Fagan, a marine, a community beacon, and a mental health advocate from south Texas.

On October 25, the light of his presence was tragically extinguished, and the shock waves of his passing have been felt throughout my community. His absence is a reminder of the invisible battles our veterans face.

Eric's life was a testament to service and resilience. Let us honor his memory by better addressing the silent crisis of veteran suicide and ensuring those who serve have the care they deserve.

I want Eric's family to know that his legacy inspires us to care for every veteran. May God bless Eric Fagan, his family, and the country he loved.

Semper fi.

□ 0915

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL CORN-TO-ETHANOL RESEARCH CENTER'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize an important anniversary for a cutting-edge research center located in my district. For more than 20 years, the National Corn-to-Ethanol Research Center at Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville has been a pillar in the biotechnology industry and a leading research institution in the United States.

Born in the research title of the 1996 farm bill, with a \$14 million Federal appropriation the following year, NCERC has been a good investment not just in my district, but in the broader bioeconomy in America.

NCERC's work has culminated in more than 80 technologies that are now in the commercial marketplace, generating over \$7 billion of annual revenue and thousands of direct and indirect jobs.