

ago called people vermin. He is using white supremacist code words.

The global stage is watching us because they are all in for Ukraine and democracy, but Republican isolationism has hurt and will continue to destabilize our democracy, weaken our allies, and remove the United States from the global stage. When we leave, someone far more dangerous will take our place and hurt us more.

No more distractions, conflations, or profligations. Mr. Speaker, the time to get serious about this country is right now.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Open our eyes dear Lord. Give us sight in the overwhelming darkness that has blinded us to the light of Your will. The shadow of hatred for our brothers and sisters has blinded us to Your command to live and act in love.

Open our eyes and our hearts and purge the animosity from our world where weapons of war and arms of outright prejudice are set in motion by human hands and triggered by the hardness of our hearts.

Cleanse our hearts from every inkling of hostility wherever it dares to take root within us and however it is displayed by us: in our disdain for a relative or neighbor who has slighted us, in our contempt for Jews or Muslims or another person or group that has fallen out of our favor, and even in the insults we too often toss across the political aisle.

Bring us out from the darkness we have created and call us back to our love for You by following Your command to love one another, that once again we would live in Your light.

Shed Your divine light in our lives such that it would cause us to set down our weapons, abandon our hatred, and walk without stumbling, in the way You have revealed to us. In the power of Your name, we pray that You would grant us Your mercy and illumine Your will for us this day.

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 North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY 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.

HONORING MAJOR JEFFREY HOERNEMANN

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Air Force Major Jeff Hoernemann of Andover, Minnesota. Jeff lost his life last week along with seven other airmen during a routine training mission off the coast of Japan. He was just 32 years old.

Throughout his life, Jeff had a competitive spirit and was uniquely disciplined. A graduate of Andover High School, Jeff broke school and conference records in the indoor 800 meters and the 4 x 800-meter relay.

As a teenager, he won a \$15,000 scholarship with an essay describing his careful budgeting to purchase a bike for triathlons.

After competing in cross country and earning a degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University, Jeff entered the Air Force. In 2016, he became a pilot after completing Columbus Air Force Base's Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class.

Jeff dedicated his life to service and made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, across the city of Andover, the State of Minnesota, and this country, we honor his life and preserve his memory. Our prayers are with Jeff's wife, Jess; his parents, Thomas and Catherine; and his brother, Jared.

AID FOR ISRAEL AND UKRAINE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are fiddling while freedom burns. We have 5 legislative days left to aid our allies, Israel and Ukraine.

Each hour we wait makes it harder for our allies to defend freedom and de-

mocracy against tyrants and terrorists.

OMB Director Shalanda Young made it clear this week that the past resources we secured for Ukraine have run out.

As Speaker JOHNSON said in Florida, Putin won't stop in Ukraine. He will continue to devour territory and undermine democracy until he is stopped.

My Republican colleagues ask what the plan is in Ukraine and Israel. The plan is to win. The plan is to defeat Putin. The plan is to vanquish terrorism generally and Hamas in particular.

Most Members agree on that plan—300 on Ukraine and 400 on Israel. I urge the Speaker to give us the opportunity to act on that consensus now. Freedom demands it.

HONORING GARY PETERSON

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gary Peterson, a dedicated leader hailing from the Tri-Cities, who tragically lost his battle with cancer this past month.

It saddens me that rather than announcing his next greatest achievement, I am instead here to mourn his passing.

Gary was known throughout central Washington, the United States Capitol, and the Department of Energy as a fierce advocate for the interests of the Tri-Cities.

His leadership in our communities proved fruitful for decades, sparking both economic development and innovation for the citizens of central Washington.

His advocacy for the Hanford cleanup mission has been the cornerstone of the success of our region, and I am in awe of the impact he has made over the years.

His immense knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of our community's priorities was matched by so few, and I have no doubt his name will go down in history with the names of people like Sam Volpentest and Bob Ferguson.

Gary's legacy includes leading advocacy for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's campus, supporting the advancements of the Hanford cleanup mission, and advocating for the growing local economy at TRIDEC.

He will be known as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and personal friend. He will be missed, but his legacy will continue to live on.

MISS EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA TEEN ALYSON SHARP

(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, there she is: Miss Eastern

North Carolina Teen, Ms. Alyson Sharp.

Alyson's platform promotes agriculture and, more specifically, the advancement of women in agriculture—girls farm, too.

Her love for agriculture has been inspired by one of eastern North Carolina's legendary farmers, Pender Sharp of Sharp Farms in Wilson, North Carolina. Pender is Alyson's grandfather. She refers to him as her "Big."

As Miss Eastern North Carolina Teen, Alyson remains dedicated to community service. She collected and donated food for a food drive to ensure homeless individuals had a good Thanksgiving Day meal.

Currently, she is working with the Wilson Police Department to make Christmas special and to fulfill the wishes of kids across the city. During her pastime, she enjoys hunting and fishing.

Miss Eastern North Carolina Teen is a crown most special to me as Alyson brings hope for a brighter future.

BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

(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 10 school districts across the 15th District who are recognized as "Best Communities for Music Education" and received the SupportMusic Merit Award from the National Association of Music Manufacturers Foundation.

This recognition is given to schools who continue to provide all children with the opportunity to learn and to grow with music.

The award program acknowledges and celebrates innovative schools and districts that have developed a stronger presence for music education on campus and in the lives of the students.

Congratulations to St. Francis School in Clearfield County, Tidioute Community Charter School in Warren County, Bald Eagle Area School District in Centre County, Armstrong School District in Armstrong County, DuBois Area School District in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties, State College Area School District in Centre County, Bellefonte Area School District in Centre County, Clearfield Area School District in Clearfield County, Lewisburg Area School District in Union County, and Port Allegany School District in McKean and Potter Counties.

We congratulate these school districts on this recognition.

CELEBRATING GARTH FAGAN

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to honor Garth Fagan, a Rochester visionary who profoundly influenced the cultural fabric of not only our local community but the entire world.

As we pay tribute to this extraordinary artist, I acknowledge and celebrate the deep connection between Garth Fagan and the people and places enriched by his vision.

Committed to Rochester's artistic growth, he established the Bottom of the Bucket, But . . . Dance Theater in 1970, now known simply as Garth Fagan Dance.

Since then, Garth has inspired and nurtured a new generation of talented artists from around the globe. His innovative choreography has earned him accolades, including a Tony award for Broadway's "The Lion King," a production masterfully blending culture and creativity, which will remain forever a testament to his artistic brilliance.

Garth Fagan is truly a national treasure. As he transitions away from his leadership role in the dance company, his profound impact will undoubtedly continue to resonate—captivating audiences for generations to come.

IMPACTS OF INFLATION

(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, the disastrous decisions by Biden hurts the pocketbooks of Americans and destroys jobs, made even more obvious as we enter the holiday season of Christmas and Hanukkah.

Bidenomics inflation has overcome hourly raises, reducing the spending power of Americans by \$11,434 annually in the two Biden years.

Under Biden, prices for the same Thanksgiving dinner were 25 percent higher in 2023 than in 2019. As Christmas approaches, Americans are challenged. In a WalletHub survey, more than one in three Americans are foregoing gifts this year due to Bidenflation.

Republicans, led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, will continue to fight to reduce inflation and create jobs. Speaker JOHNSON is correct that we must support the borders of Ukraine and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America with Biden open borders for terrorists.

It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent, as finally admitted by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING LAURA PENROD

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible educator in southern Nevada, Ms. Laura Penrod, who has been recognized as Nevada's Teacher of the Year for 2024.

Ms. Penrod currently teaches at Southwest Career and Technical Academy where she opened the special education department and began working and teaching English soon thereafter.

She brings 17 years of teaching experience to help her students not only in the classroom but also after school, advising several extracurricular activities and in her community as a fearless champion of public education.

Ms. Penrod exemplifies what makes our teachers so special—the drive to do good and always be there for our students.

I wish Ms. Penrod the best of luck as she moves on to the National Teacher of the Year competition, and I am deeply grateful for the impact she has on her students and our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. J. WILLIAM MCROBERTS

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of my dear friend, mentor, and former surgical chairman, Dr. J. William McRoberts, known affectionately as "Mac."

A native of Rochester, Minnesota, he graduated from Princeton University and attended Cornell University School of Medicine where he was elected class president.

After completing his surgical training at the Mayo Clinic, he was stationed as director of urology at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington. He continued to serve in the U.S. Navy as a captain in the Reserves for 20 years.

He began his academic career as an assistant professor at the University of Washington, excelling throughout the ranks and becoming chairman of urology in the division of surgery at the University of Kentucky.

As my chairman, Dr. McRoberts taught me a great deal about patient care, endurance, and professionalism. Despite long and oftentimes grueling hours, he kept a great wit and humor about him, challenging us all not only to be better physicians but better humans. He demonstrated that compassion and surgical skill are not mutually exclusive.

Once he retired from academic life in 2001, instead of just enjoying the fruits of his labor, he has served in underserved areas in Kentucky and for the last 3 years in rural eastern North Carolina.

Now, at the age of 90, I am releasing him of his medical obligation to enjoy his life with his wife, Marley; son, Porter; daughter, Jane; and their grandchildren.

My life has been a better one lived because of his professionalism, humor, and friendship.