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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

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

Guide us, O Lord, for many are the plans of our hearts. The schedules we have carefully laid out on our calendars, the expectations we bring with us into this Chamber, the outcomes we desire from the decisions before us are multitude. Many are the plans of our hearts, but it is Your purpose that prevails.

Remind us then of Your sovereignty in all that befalls us in this day. When our schedules are upended, when our expectations are far from met, and when those outcomes we desire escape our ability to influence, remind us that it is always Your purpose that prevails.

In Your grace plan for us, may we find that in all that we intend, You have a grander vision. In all that we anticipate, You offer us so much more. In the results we seek, You have already provided a future beyond our imaginings.

Many are the plans of our hearts, but Your purpose, O Lord, prevails.

In sure and certain hope in Your divine guidance and in the strength of Your name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SEWELL 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING ANDREA LINETTE RODRIGUEZ

(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, today, I rise to recognize Andrea Linette Rodriguez, a third grade student from Sanchez Elementary School in McAllen, Texas.

Andrea recently won the first place prize in the NABE's Being Bilingual Essay Competition.

In her award-winning essay, Andrea wrote, "Because I speak Spanish, I was able to say good-bye when my abuelito became a star."

Andrea, I am sure your abuelito is very proud of you, as we all are. Like many children in south Texas, Andrea exemplifies a beautiful tradition that is deeply rooted in our Nation's history of patriotic Americans.

In south Texas, we celebrate both our Hispanic culture and our being patriotic Americans. I encourage all youth to embrace both the English language and a second language. Knowledge is power.

Felicidades, Andrea, on your achievement and showcasing the very best of south Texas.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CURRY FAMILY AS 2023 STATE OF THE UNION GUESTS

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my distinguished guests for the 2023 State of the Union, the Curry family of Selma, Alabama.

Mr. Thomas Curry is a native of Selma who bravely served our Nation for over 30 years in the United States Air Force. Mrs. Annie Curry, his wife, spent over a decade working as a teacher and a counselor at Selma High School.

The Currys have been married for over 60 years and are currently in their nineties. Tragically, as a result of the tornadoes that tore through Alabama on January 12, the Currys lost their home of over 50 years, displacing them and destroying the place where they raised their five children. Luckily, the Currys escaped without injury. God is indeed good.

The people of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District are indeed resilient, and the Curry family represents the very best of us. Their story is yet another reminder of the need for increased Federal assistance for Alabama families impacted by the tornadoes.

I was honored to lead a delegation letter to President Biden asking for 100 percent Federal share, given the dire straits of the historic city of Selma, Alabama, and that of Autauga County.

Mr. Speaker, I am asking my colleagues to welcome the Currys to our Nation's Capitol and keep them in your prayers. We are indeed Selma strong.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF HARVEY HOTINGER

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

☐ 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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Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and memory of Harvey Hotinger, who passed away recently at the age of 91.

Harvey was born in Kerrs Creek outside of Lexington in 1932 and grew up on the family farm that formed the roots of not only service to his own but also a life of service to his community and country.

After graduating from Virginia Tech with a focus on engineering, Hotinger joined the Army, specializing in missile systems. Following his military service, he began teaching algebra to high school students while also opening up a small business.

During his career and throughout retirement, Harvey also took pride in his garden, giving his friends and neighbors thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetables, as well as delicious honey, never straying far from the roots of his family farm.

He continued his service as he taught Sunday school to the youth of New Monmouth Presbyterian Church for more than 50 years. He also served the Kerrs Creek District on the Rockbridge County Board of Supervisors for 4 years.

After a well-lived life, Harvey is survived by his wife, Rhunelle, and his children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. His dedication and commitment to his community represent the best the valley has to offer, and he will never be forgotten.

TRIBUTE TO MICHIGAN LEADERS JOE TATE AND BARBARA-ROSE COLLINS

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate National Black History Month, I pay tribute to a Detroit-born African-American leader, Joe Tate, who became the first African-American man elected as Speaker of the Michigan State House this year.

Speaker Joe Tate, the son of a firefighter, played football at Michigan State and later in the NFL. He also served in Afghanistan as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

I am honored to have Speaker Tate as my guest for tonight's State of the Union Address.

Along with Joe Tate, today I also honor Congresswoman Barbara-Rose Collins, the first Black woman elected to Congress from Michigan, who worked tirelessly to break down barriers.

I proudly served with Mr. Tate in the Michigan House and look forward to working with him for a better Michigan.

TRUE STATE OF OUR UNION

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, tonight, President Biden will give his address on the state of our Union. His version of the facts will sound wonderful but stand in stark contrast to the true state of the Union for many Americans today.

Unmentioned in his speech will be the fact that over a third of American households have forgone basic expenses to afford their energy bill, the highest energy costs in 15 years.

President Biden will say the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know better. That is why Republicans in the House are following our Commitment to America, a series of commonsense solutions to our most pressing issues.

In just a few short weeks, House Republicans have used our new majority position to hold China accountable, defund the Biden IRS army, protect our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, and bring accountability to overreaching Federal Government agencies.

When it comes to a union that is truly strong, House Republicans stand ready to deliver.

WE ARE BETTER AS A NATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden has been our President for 25 months. He said he would build an economy for working families in America.

The largest infrastructure law in U.S. history: Done.

The American Rescue Plan: Done.

The CHIPS and Science Act: Done.

The Inflation Reduction Act: Done.

The United States economy added 517,000 jobs last month alone. The unemployment rate is 3.4 percent, the lowest in 54 years. Biden created 11 million jobs. That is 440,000 jobs every single month.

According to Bloomberg Business, Biden is now on his way to becoming the greatest job-producing President in U.S. history.

Mr. Speaker, 35 million Americans today have healthcare because of the Affordable Care Act, and 92 percent of all Americans have healthcare that is better and more affordable.

Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder why our Republican House colleagues are now threatening to destroy the American economy by defaulting on the very obligations that they voted to create. We are better as a nation, and we are better as a Congress.

HONORING SUPREME COURT JUSTICE CLARENCE THOMAS

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an incredible man from the great State of Georgia. Supreme

Court Justice Clarence Thomas, a native son of Pin Point, near Savannah, was nominated to the Supreme Court by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

At that time, he was just the second Black American ever appointed to the Supreme Court, where he is now its longest serving member.

Since taking the Bench, Justice Thomas has ruled on some of the most consequential cases in American history. He has safeguarded our rights by defending the principles of natural law that are central to America's founding.

Justice Thomas exemplifies the American Dream, rising from humble beginnings to a seat on our Nation's highest court through hard work and dedication.

There would be nothing more fitting than the Georgia State legislature finishing the job it started last year and putting a statue of Justice Thomas under the gold dome of the State capitol.

Justice Thomas' legacy of service and footprint on American jurisprudence is worthy of honor and commemoration.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JOHN ADAMS

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of John Adams, a man who needs no introduction in Cleveland or Progressive Field, thanks to his passion for baseball and his iconic drum. John passed away last week at 71 years of age.

John, a 1969 graduate of Parma High, bought a base drum at a garage sale and first hauled it to an Indians game in 1973. Over the next 46 years, John and his drum would attend more than 3,700 games, including all three All-Star games, 11 playoff series, and three World Series. He missed just 45 games over nearly five decades of fandom.

John and his drum were the beating heart of Cleveland baseball, and they have rightfully been immortalized with a statue at the field.

I thank John for the memories. May he rest in peace.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 14 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1015

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama) at 10 o'clock and 17 minutes a.m.