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## House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### PRAYER

Reverend Sean Raftis, St. Charles Borromeo Church, Whitefish, Montana, offered the following prayer:

Loving Heavenly Father, we thank You for blessing us with faith, hope, and love.

We are especially thankful for those who defend and protect our Nation and our veterans who are with us and those who gave their lives to deliver us from evil and to protect our priceless freedoms we treasure.

Please guide us so that we can know and live the good, the true, and the beautiful. Please forgive our sins and cleanse us with Your infinite mercy so that we can live virtuous lives. We beg You that You continuously bless this Congress so that we all may work for the common good to deliver life, liberty, and happiness so that we and all citizens can fulfill Psalm 22 to "proclaim to a people yet unborn the deliverance You have brought."

May all these noble men and women in Congress who serve here now continue to be blessed with joyful resolve to contribute to the greatest good, You, our Heavenly Father, and may God bless America.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TONKO 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.

### WELCOMING REVEREND SEAN RAFTIS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, Father Sean Raftis is originally from Spokane, Washington, the son of James and Catherine Raftis. He has a brother, of course, Pat. He was a kid who grew up in a fine town in Spokane.

He attended Gonzaga Prep and Gonzaga University in his hometown, and he studied and taught at the Edward R. Murrow School of Communication at Washington State University, also known as the Cougars. He earned his master's degree while teaching at the Murrow School.

Father Raftis started studying for the Catholic priesthood in 1995, studying philosophy at Loyola University Chicago and theology at Boston School of Theology and Ministry.

He was ordained in 2005 and is a priest of the Diocese of Helena, Montana, in western Montana and serving at the Cathedral of St. Helena, Holy Cross in Townsend, and I am proud to say that he is the pastor at my church in Whitefish, Montana.

I am honored to introduce Father Raftis.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FISCHBACH). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### RECOGNIZING ANNUAL DuBOIS AREA YMCA POLAR PLUNGE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the annual DuBois Area YMCA Polar Plunge, which takes place in Clearfield County.

The event, which occurred on Saturday, February 3, has taken place for the last 13 years and has raised thousands of dollars for the YMCA's Strong Kids Campaign. With their help, children are able to participate in YMCA activities at a much lower cost.

Despite the cold weather, 58 brave participants dove into Treasure Lake. The ages of the participants ranged from 12 to 82 years old.

The plunge initially began in 2011, when it was founded by DuBois YMCA executive director Dan Dowling.

I take this time to continue to show my support for all those who participated, as well as the DuBois YMCA for their gracious efforts. Without these fundraising events, those who are less fortunate would not be able to access these very important youth programs.

Keep up the great work.

### CONGRATULATING FARNSWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

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

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate the remarkable team from Farnsworth Middle School in Gunderland, New York, in New York's 20th Congressional District, on its outstanding achievement in winning the grand prize at this year's national DiscoverE's Future City Competition.

These students, together with educator Kelly Werner and volunteer mentor

□ 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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Jennifer Smith, showed extraordinary innovation, dedication, and skill in crafting their future city. Their vision and hard work exemplified the value of STEM education and showcased the limitless potential of our youth.

I congratulate the Dutchman Ducks team and everyone involved in this impressive accomplishment and thank them for representing our great capital region with excellence on this national stage.

I wish them all success in their future endeavors as they continue to electrify our world with ingenuity and passion.

Let's hear it for today's leaders amongst the young people in this country.

#### CELEBRATING HAWKEYE SUPERSTAR CAITLIN CLARK

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Hawkeye superstar and West Des Moines native Caitlin Clark.

March is upon us, and the madness is real.

As we look forward to the Big Ten Women's Tournament already underway, we have a phenomenon coming from the heart of the heartland, Ms. Caitlin Clark.

After surpassing the all-time scoring record in women's basketball in February, Caitlin became the NCAA Division I all-time leading scorer for both men's and women's basketball.

In Iowa's win over Ohio State on Sunday, Caitlin reached an outstanding record of 3,685 career points, and she is just getting started.

Caitlin is a leader both on and off the court who serves as a role model for young women across our State and the country.

As a dad of five young daughters, our babysitter even helped make Caitlin Clark who she is by constantly getting dunked on by Caitlin Clark in high school. Ms. Liz Sutton, you, the coaches, the fans, the team, and the family are what make Caitlin Clark and Iowa so proud today. Thanks for all you are doing.

Most importantly, as Iowa sets its focus on the Big Ten Tournament in March, join me in congratulating Caitlin for what she has done and what she will continue to do.

#### AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S DISCOVERY SHOP

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, in the Ninth District of Ohio, the American Cancer Society Discovery Shop in Sylvania, Ohio, in Lucas County, won the Denise Noel Award for bringing in

the most sales out of any location in our entire country.

The award is presented by the American Cancer Society to a person or group that has made significant contributions to the Discovery program. The Discovery Shop, which is a volunteer-run thrift store, sells donated clothes, household goods, antiques, collectibles, jewelry, artwork, and small furniture.

Purchases at these fine establishments help the American Cancer Society fund advocacy research and patient support programs to improve the lives of cancer patients and their families.

Anita Schuller, the manager of the Sylvania location, attributes the store's success to the involvement of the community and the dedication of its volunteers. Volunteers at the store credit Ms. Schuller's leadership and her ability to create and maintain a positive atmosphere for the award.

In this home away from home for many, there is not one person that does not go above and beyond for their Sylvania and our broader community.

Madam Speaker, congratulations to Ms. Schuller and the entire team.

#### HONORING STEVE SUTTON

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

Mr. MOLINARO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a very special guest joining me in D.C. here in the House gallery today, Mr. Steve Sutton, a retired social studies teacher from Red Hook, New York.

He is not just any teacher. He was, in fact, my teacher and the man responsible for my desire to enter into public service.

Mr. Sutton's passion for government inspired me to get involved, leading me to student council, mock trial, and the Presidential Classroom program here in Washington.

Later, I served as the youngest mayor in America, State assemblyman, county executive, and now a Member of Congress.

One of the proudest moments for me was calling Mr. Sutton on election night to tell him that I would be serving here in Congress, the same institution we studied in his classroom.

Now, not everyone will pursue a career in public service, but everyone is capable of achieving their version of success, and that is why teachers like Steve Sutton matter. They push us, through our unique talents, to achieve our dreams.

Mr. Sutton helped me realize my life's calling to make a difference.

To you, Mr. Steve Sutton, and all the teachers like you nationwide, we are so very grateful.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CHARLIE GRIFFIN

(Mr. WITTMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Captain Charlie "Griff" Griffin.

I grew up there, working on the Outer Banks in the fishing community. I remember Griff vividly.

Griff was a personality. Griff was bigger than life. He loved fishing. He loved the fishing community. He loved everything about what was going on there on the Outer Banks.

I remember his infectious laugh. I remember his voice on the radio, as you see here, saying: "Got him on."

Griff was indeed a friend to all in the fishing community, and he will be sorely missed.

He leaves behind a community of fishermen whose lives were touched by his kind soul and his kind words. We looked at him as a friend and mentor.

I pray that God brings peace to his loved ones. I know his love for his son, Jake, and his love for his dogs, including Leila, who was tragically lost on the same day as Griff.

We know it is a difficult time for folks in the fishing community there in the Outer Banks, but we know that his life will live on forever. He will be remembered and cherished.

Rest in peace, Griff.

#### REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF CHAD DUNN

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

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Chad Dunn, who tragically passed away in a boating accident in Oregon Inlet in North Carolina this past week. He was taken far too soon.

As a member of the fishing community, Chad was beloved by those who knew him, as well as his passion for the sea. Whether casting lines into the ocean's depths or navigating the tumultuous waters of life, Chad approached every challenge with courage and grace. Life is precious, and Chad seized every moment to live his life to the fullest. His spirit of adventure serves as a reminder for all of us to do the same.

While the sea may have claimed Chad's physical existence, his spirit remains in our hearts and our minds, especially those in the boating community and fishing community of Oregon Inlet in the Outer Banks.

I pray that God brings peace to his loved ones in this very difficult time. May his life be forever remembered, cherished, and beloved by those who loved and knew him.

Rest in peace, Chad.

#### EXPANDING ACCESS TO CAPITAL ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN). Pursuant to House Resolution 1052 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of