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No. 48

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### BIDEN'S ENERGY CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, President Biden turned his attention to a campaign promise that he made in May of 2020, and he canceled the Keystone XL pipeline.

Since then, President Biden has continued his campaign against the energy resources that are underneath the feet of my constituents. He has created

more red tape regulations, he has canceled new permits, and he has imposed a ban on the shipment of liquefied natural gas.

All of these efforts are coordinated to appease President Biden's far-left base, all at the expense of American energy prices.

In 2022, the national average for a gallon of gas reached over \$5 a gallon for the first time in our history. Now, the average price for a gallon of gas is once again on the rise, recently hitting a 4-month high.

Pennsylvanians cannot afford these rising prices and cannot afford a President who puts politics ahead of what is best for American families.

It is time to put a stop on the war against American energy and return to using the baseload power that we can produce right here at home.

### BIDEN'S BUDGET FAILURE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden offered a budget that fails to address the concerns of the American people.

Instead of working to secure our border, get a handle on inflation, and grow our economy, this budget proposal offers handouts to the far left, it grows bureaucracy, and it wastes taxpayers' dollars.

Instead of working to cut spending, this bill would include \$4.9 trillion in new taxes and spend \$86 trillion over the next 10 years.

Worst of all, this budget fails to secure our border. Instead of directing funds toward border security, President Biden has allocated \$4 billion in the Homeland Security budget for Green New Deal climate initiatives. The climate that he should be addressing is the porous open border that brings drugs and crime into our country.

It is clear that this administration is more focused on growing its agencies, investing in liberal policies, and spending trillions of taxpayer dollars at the

same time that our debt continues to spiral out of control. This is all unacceptable.

### CONGRATULATING CHARLA SCHAFFER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, every year, the Washington-Centerville Public Library sponsors the Erma Bombeck writing competition, focused on humor and human-focused essays. Only four winners are chosen out of hundreds of entries from across the world. Among this year's winners is Charla Schaffer from Muscatine, Iowa, who won the global humor category with her piece "Funeral Notes." In a world often fraught with challenges, Charla's ability to infuse humor and humanity into her writing is a true gift.

After serving with distinction in various leadership roles, including the vice president of marketing and retail banking at First National Bank of Muscatine, and executive director at the Muscatine Center for Social Action, she continues to lead by example as president of the Community Foundation of Greater Muscatine and as a board member of the Iowa Council of Foundations.

I congratulate Charla on this remarkable achievement.

### NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Agriculture Day.

In Iowa, agriculture isn't just an industry; it is a way of life. Our farmers, with their unwavering dedication and tireless efforts, not only feed our communities but also sustain our economy, nourish our Nation, and fuel the world.

The fertile soils of Iowa have long been recognized as some of the most

□ 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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productive in the world. With over 80 percent of Iowa's land dedicated to agricultural purposes, our farmers serve as the backbone of our communities, economy, and State. Iowa stands as a leading producer of soybeans, corn, pork, and eggs in the United States. Notably, we also lead the Nation in ethanol biodiesel production, contributing to both domestic and global needs.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have had the privilege of engaging with many of Iowa's farmers, listening to their concerns, and championing their ideas. Today, I am proud to recognize their hard work and vow to continue fighting here in Congress to ensure that farmers have access to the resources and incentives they need to continue to feed and fuel our Nation.

CONGRATULATING THE UNITED WAY OF  
MUSCATINE, IOWA

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate United Way of Muscatine for 70 years of service to Muscatine County and the surrounding area. United Way of Muscatine has played a pivotal role in feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and educating children for several decades, and I laud them and their staff for their tireless service to make our communities better.

With rising food and rent prices causing mass uncertainty and anxiety among hardworking Americans, United Way serves as a beacon of hope for those in need of help. Their food and housing assistance programs, as well as their programs to help victims of abuse and trafficking, are an integral helping hand to southeastern Iowa. Their tireless work to serve their community is commendable, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating the 70th anniversary of this wonderful organization.

RECOGNIZING DR. DAVID C. HILMERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I announce the induction of Dr. David C. Hilmers, an Iowa-born former astronaut and retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, into the U.S. Astronaut Hall of Fame.

Dr. Hilmers, raised in DeWitt, Iowa, began his journey after graduating from Central Community High School in 1968. With five academic degrees, he stands as the second-most formally educated U.S. astronaut, showcasing his intellectual prowess and dedication. His illustrious career spans four space missions with NASA, totaling over 493 hours in space, and he is not the only Iowa-born and -raised astronaut.

Beyond his space endeavors, Dr. Hilmers earned his M.D. with honors from Baylor College of Medicine. Today, as professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas, he continues his impactful work in global health and humanitarian relief efforts.

Dr. Hilmers' remarkable journey inspires us to pursue knowledge, explore new horizons, and serve our fellow human beings with compassion and dedication.

CELEBRATING KAITLYN THEDE, MADELYN THEDE, GRADY CLAUSSEN, COLLIER ROCKOW, AND LEXI HENNING

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate students Kaitlyn and Madelyn Thede, Grady Claussen, Collier Rockow, and Lexi Henning from Wilton Junior-Senior High School for being the statewide winners of the 14th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national STEM competition.

They invented a grain elevator level tracker that will help farmers track the height of their grain with a system of lights that helps farmers determine the grain height inside the silo. This invention will protect hardworking Iowa farmers from dangerous grain elevator accidents and represents a monumental step forward in agricultural safety.

The Samsung Solve for Tomorrow competition is a national competition that picks one winner from each of the 50 States. These students beat out hundreds of other submissions with their clever invention that will save lives and protect farmers across Iowa. These students will now aim to compete to be one of the 10 finalists, with 3 being named national winners.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this incredible achievement and wishing these students the best as they continue marching toward the finish line.

Mr. Speaker, I extend birthday wishes and greetings to my daughter. Happy birthday, Taylor.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

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

O Righteous One, we pause in stillness before You. We wait patiently for You as this new week begins. For we know You will give us the desires of our heart, speaking to us Your Word of truth.

On our part, may we come to trust You. Then may our trust in You know no boundaries. May no uncertainty, no doubt, no fear, or anxiety serve as barriers for our trust in Your steadfast love for us.

May our faith in You encourage us to walk closer to You, to follow where

You lead us, and to go where You call us to go, sure of Your grace plan.

Keep our eyes above the waves that threaten us. Keep our feet on the foundation You have laid beneath us. Keep our will away from the temptations that surround us, and keep our hearts within Your own loving embrace.

Today, on this day, in all we say or do, may we trust in You, O Lord, and do what is good.

Sure of Your omniscience and omnipotence, 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 gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS 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.

#### WILTON JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL—SAMSUNG COMPETITION

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate students Kaitlyn and Madelyn Thede, Grady Claussen, Collier Rockow, and Lexi Henning from Wilton Junior-Senior High School for being the statewide winners of the 14th annual Samsung Solve for Tomorrow national STEM competition.

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