

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. FOXF) 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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Madam 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.

I wish my daughter a happy birthday. Happy birthday, Taylor.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, the Biden-Harris administration recently announced nearly \$1.7 billion in new commitments as part of the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities.

In 2022, when President Biden hosted the second-ever White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, I told those in attendance that the event could not be a one-off. We couldn't gather in D.C., pat each other on the back, and not deliver on our ambitious goals.

These new bold commitments from 141 stakeholders from across the Nation, including health systems, insurers, nonprofits, philanthropic groups, academia, and local elected officials, show that we are not taking our foot off the gas to meet the President's goal of ending hunger and reducing diet-related diseases by 2030.

I want to thank President Biden; my good friend, Chef Jose Andres, from the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition; Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack; Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra; and everyone who is playing a part big and small to end hunger once and for all.

A THWARTED FLEECE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, a Biden agency called PBGC wanted to fleece the taxpayer of \$127 million by funding pensions for dead participants.

Let me repeat: \$127 million for dead pension participants.

Only after repeated calls by the Committee on Education and the Workforce for PBGC to correct its work has it decided to claw back those funds. Thanks to the tireless work of the committee, PBGC is being held accountable.

Accountability and fiscal responsibility were once shared, bipartisan values.

A former Republican Senator has been famously quoted as saying: "A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you are talking real money."

This Senator's colleague, William Proxmire, notoriously presented the Golden Fleece Award to the government organization that had fleeced the American taxpayer the worst on any given week.

The American people are tired of being fleeced. President Biden has already misspent billions in fraudulent COVID payments. I say not a dollar more.

TRUMP AND HIS EXTREME MAGA RETROGRESSIVE AGENDA

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, this Women's History Month, we find ourselves confronted by the regressive forces of Donald Trump and extreme MAGA Republicans. This faction seeks to propel our Nation backwards at the sacrifice of centuries of progress and the well-being of American lives for their own self-serving interests.

Their agenda aims to strip women of their reproductive freedoms nationwide, slash Social Security and Medicare, rip healthcare away from millions, and funnel even more wealth to the already wealthy through massive tax breaks for big corporations and billionaires. This radical agenda is something everyday Americans, including Virgin Islanders, who continue to receive the brunt of inequity in benefits and access to resources, simply cannot afford.

Extreme Republicans and the former President attack not just the American people, including veterans and elected officials, but as we saw January 6, the democratic institutions that are a bedrock of our Nation when things don't go their way. Their actions are an unequivocal declaration of war against our democracy.

Madam Speaker, Republicans must secure and defend our Republic and secure the rights and safety of all Americans, especially American women.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). The Chair reminds Members to refrain from engaging in personalities toward presumptive nominees for the Office of President.

SCHOOLCHILDREN SUFFER FROM DISPARATE POLICIES

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. As I traveled through the airport, I could sense the degree of excitement of many of the students who were traveling on spring break.

As I entered the Capitol, it was a joy to see so many classes and families enjoying the wonderment of democracy in this great place, the citadel of democracy.

Nonetheless, I rise today to talk about America's schoolchildren and particularly to talk about those who are impacted by disparate policies such as the policies in Barbers Hill.

I want to acknowledge the Congressional Black Caucus and the advocates who have supported and surrounded Mr. George. Mr. George is a young man who is isolated in a classroom, who has been going to school with no academic teaching, no ability to fraternize with his fellow students, no ability to eat in

the lunchroom, and no expectation of any kind of spring break.

Madam Speaker, you ask: Well, he has obviously misbehaved.

No. He has over a 3.0 grade point average. He is an excellent student, but he is being there because of his hairstyle. I need the Secretary of Education to help this young man and go to his classroom.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Save him from this isolation and prison-like environment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman's time has expired. The gentlewoman is no longer recognized.

CHEROKEE GIRLS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(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 Cherokee High School Girls Varsity Basketball team for winning the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 1A State Championship title for the first time since 1996.

The Cherokee Lady Braves defeated their opponent by a dominating 42 points, making the final score 74-32.

The entire team contributed to a historic State championship with every player on the Cherokee roster making an appearance in the game.

The Lady Braves showcased the very best high school athletics, and I am confident that their determination, leadership, and perseverance will prepare them for success on and off the court.

Fans tuned in at home and across the country, including Shaquille O'Neal, who shared his congratulations on Instagram.

Congratulations to the Lady Braves on a remarkable victory. They have made western North Carolina proud.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1530

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HILL) at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.