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No. 9

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ESTES).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 17, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RON ESTES 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 11:50 a.m.

### RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. Since 1973, the commission has transformed from merely a planning agency to a dynamic force in grant writing and program management.

Through these initiatives, they have facilitated the investment of over \$300

million in outside funds into our southeastern Iowa communities, influencing infrastructure, tourism, redevelopment, and housing initiatives.

I congratulate the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission's chair, Brent Schleisman, and executive director, Mike Norris, on their continuous work to adapt the organization's original priorities to today's challenges.

I congratulate you on your work, and I wish you 50 more years of success for southeast Iowa.

### CONGRATULATING THE CLINTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clinton Municipal Airport on their Distinguished General Aviation Award by the FAA. This prestigious award is quite significant, and this year marks the first time that this award has been given to an airport without commercial airline service.

The FAA Central Region selected Clinton Municipal Airport for its active community involvement, successful project submissions, and contributions to the local economy.

Jim Johnson, the FAA Central Region Director, also commended the airport's active local role, safety achievements, and modernized facilities.

I congratulate the entire team at the Clinton Municipal Airport for receiving this award and for their dedication to excellence and community service.

### CONGRATULATING HNI CORPORATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate HNI Corporation for being recognized among America's Most Responsible Companies.

Under the leadership of CEO Jeff Lorenger, HNI's commitment to corporate social responsibility shines through, securing its place on Newsweek's list for its fifth consecutive year.

The company's focus on environmental sustainability and corporate

governance is showcased by its impressive achievements, including a 64 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and zero waste to landfills at multiple facilities.

I congratulate them on this achievement and thank them for their dedication to creating a more sustainable future.

### CONGRATULATING PHIL PARKER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa's defensive coordinator, Phil Parker, who has been awarded the coveted Broyles Award. This accolade is presented each year to the top assistant coach in college football, and it recognizes Parker's 25 years of dedication and leadership on the Hawkeye's coaching staff.

This season, the team had an impressive defensive record, ranking fifth nationally in total defense, and they played 27 consecutive games where they allowed 400 yards or less. Coach Parker has been instrumental in their success, which is reflected in their lowest defensive average since 2008.

As the third Iowa assistant coach to receive this award, I congratulate Coach Parker and the rest of the coaching staff on this impressive testament to the excellence of the University of Iowa.

Go Hawkeyes.

### UNLV STUDENTS AND FACULTY RETURN TO CAMPUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, this is the first week of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' spring semester, a time when students should be excited to see their friends after winter break and faculty begin to review the syllabus with an eager class.

Sadly, this won't be a typical week back for the students of UNLV. That is

□ 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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because this week is the first week that students will be returning to in-person classes since last month's horrifying shooting in which a gunman took the lives of three professors and critically wounded a fourth.

Thousands of students and faculty members were forced to huddle in classrooms behind locked and barricaded doors, waiting for hours to find out whether their campus was safe or not.

Immediately after the shooting, I, and many of my colleagues, demanded once again that Congress do something, just anything, to curb our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Since then, our country has witnessed another 70 school shootings. That is in just 6 weeks. How many pieces of legislation to address gun violence have been brought to the floor in that time? Zero. It is shameful.

Instead, our far right has played partisan games to score cheap political points, threatening a government shutdown, and completely dismissing the very real fear that students and educators at UNLV and across the country feel each and every day.

That fear should not be normal. Nevadans are tired of it and so am I. I want my colleagues to work together to end this sick cycle of gun violence. Let's honor these victims with action.

#### HONORING PETER RICHARD SGRO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of the late Peter Richard Sgro, who sadly left this world on January 9. Peter was iconic on so many levels that his outside-the-box vision and drive to effectuate change will be deeply missed.

As an attorney, Peter always believed in seeking justice for his clients. He never walked away from a fight if he knew that virtue needed to prevail, and in his case, virtue certainly always prevailed.

As the chairman of the board of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Peter evidenced that he was an advocate for small businesses, particularly the little guy. He stood with them to challenge policies that would raise the cost of doing business, and his relentlessness ensured that he wouldn't sit down until compromises were made.

As a businessman, Peter was a visionary, and this was clear when he worked aggressively to bring a private hospital to open its doors in Guam. Peter understood the necessities to improve and expand healthcare for families, and whenever we drive by the Guam Regional Medical City in the northern part of Guam, we can evidently see Peter's legacy on display.

For all the roles Peter embraced to help Guam prosper over the decades, there was none that he enjoyed more than being a father to Christopher,

Matthew, Katarina, and Maria, and a grandfather to Ricardo, Natalia, and Mila. They were his foundation, his purpose, and his pride. My heart and my deepest condolences go out to them in this trying time.

In 2022, as a Guam senator, I had the honor of recognizing Peter and his legacy as his company, International Group, Inc., was celebrating an anniversary. I am saddened that in such a short period of less than 2 years, I am recognizing him under a different set of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, of behalf of a thankful Nation and an appreciative island of Guam, I honor the life and legacy of Peter Richard Sgro and thank him for his many contributions to our island community. He will be dearly missed. Adios to my friend, until we meet again.

#### A CALL FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, the wife of a Dreamer, and the Representative of Illinois 3, a district proud of the contributions of the migrants who call it home, and a member of the Humboldt Park United Methodist Church, a church that is formed by immigrants, a church that has been serving the community for decades, and a church that built me and taught me to put my faith into action and to advocate for our shared humanity.

As a Methodist, I would like to share a call for prayer and action from "Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano Americana," "Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latinx American," the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry of the United Methodist Church, and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

As we just celebrated the season of Epiphany, we are reminded again of the story of those three wise travelers who journeyed through many lands and over borders in search of a newborn king.

We are reminded that after they found the infant Jesus, his mother, and Joseph, the true peril of their mission began.

Herod's anxiety and paranoia led to one of the worst infant massacres recorded in the Gospel text, and their earnest pilgrims' story transformed the Holy Family's existence into a family like so many today seeking asylum in other lands and, in particular, at our southern border.

Therefore, we join in a call for the humane and sacred treatment of migrants, refugees, and those who seek asylum at our borders as a recognition that the same Jesus who traveled with his family on that fateful night, can

still be found in the faces of all of the families we see on our TV screens and our social media spaces.

Along with this, we stand in opposition to the State of Texas SB 4 law, signed by Governor Greg Abbott, which allows police officials to arrest and charge migrants with misdemeanors or more serious offenses if they do not agree to leave by order of a State judge.

This law incentivizes racial profiling and further limits the rights of due process for migrants fleeing unthinkable violence, poverty, and death.

Furthermore, we oppose the inhumane treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers by Governor Abbott in transporting migrants to other States without their knowledge or consent, only to abandon them on cold streets without concern about the extreme cold weather and safety issues they would face.

We call on this administration to honor the principles of so many of the world religions that call us to mercy, to compassion, and to welcome and hold sacred lives of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers when engaging in budget negotiations and stricter border security measures.

We urge the administration to consider prayerfully those measures that will lead to a safe and just resolution with a path toward effective immigration solutions, funding to be able to process asylum and refugee claims faster and more effectively, and intentional steps to work with countries of origin to understand and combat the reasons for this mass migration.

We call on our colleagues, Members of the House and Senate, to negotiate in good faith with this administration, not in the hopes of gaining political points, as we have seen, but in the spirit of their shared citizenship in the world and with a deep conviction of what it means to be a beloved community.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Herod tempted the wise men to carry out his evil intentions toward the Christ child and his family. However, in a dream, an angel warns them not to return to Herod. Instead, they chose to return by another route.

Their courage and conviction should inspire all of us to choose another route, one filled with compassion, with justice, with mercy, and the belief that we are all made in the image of our creator and endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We call on all Methodists and all humans everywhere to join us in the call of action for prayer.

May we lead differently. May we recognize our shared humanity. May our faith lead us to action. May we be reminded that we, in fact, have a shared humanity and a responsibility to act justly and mercifully.