

Touch the hearts of each offender, that all would be purified of their thirst for vengeance. Speak into the souls of all aggressors, that they would renounce their prejudice.

Abide with the countless victims of violent attacks, with the innocents held hostage in the crossfire of escalating hostilities. Grant comfort and sanctuary to those who have fled their homes in fear. Receive the refugees into the safety of Your welcoming embrace. Make way in the desert that the hungry would receive food.

Let all Christians, Muslims, and Jews put away anger, wrath, malice, and slander. May each find a renewed spirit of forgiveness and understanding in the knowledge that all bear the image of You, our Creator.

For the sake of Your kingdom, may each of us, politician and patriot, voter or victim, be agents of Your purpose, that Your peace and justice would, once again, rule this land.

In the redemption of Your name, we 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 gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

RECOGNIZING CLARION ROBOTICS

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two robotics teams from North Clarion High School which is located in Clarion County.

The Western Pennsylvania Robotics championships took place in March at the PennWest Clarion University. During this competition, two teams, the Ineffable Inventors and the Ambiguous Case, finished in first and second place, respectively.

The Ineffable Inventors, who were the champions of the event, also earned the Amaze Award, which is given to the most consistent high-performing and competitive robot.

The Ambiguous Case, finishing in second place, received the Excellence Award, which is given to overall excellence in robotic performance.

Both of these teams will be advancing to the world championships, which will be held at the end of April in Dallas, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I enjoy seeing our youth engaging in these competitions to develop important computer science skills that will help them in their future endeavors.

I wish both teams the best of luck as they advance to the world championships.

RECOGNIZING CHAMPION OF THE WEEK RIYA HEGDE

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Riya Hegde as Ohio's 13th Congressional District Champion of the Week.

Riya is an extraordinary student from the Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, who has taken it upon herself to break down barriers and pave the way for the next generation of female coders.

She recently founded Python Pals, which strives to teach young girls and women about the computer coding program Python. This group not only teaches invaluable coding skills but will also instill confidence and courage in her peers to pursue a career in coding.

As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, we often talk about the "missing million," the 1 million STEM workers from diverse gender, racial, and geographic backgrounds that we need to fill our Nation's open jobs in the STEM fields.

Programs like Riya's are critical to filling the missing million by creating safe, supportive spaces for girls to learn how to code, so they have the skills they need to pursue careers in STEM and showing how Ohio's 13th Congressional District is leading the way.

Riya's initiative shows strength and courage by challenging stereotypes and opening doors for girls who may have once felt excluded from a career path once dominated by men.

I thank Riya for using her voice to uplift and encourage women and girls in Ohio's 13th District to pursue their interest in STEM. She has proved age is no barrier in making a significant impact in the world around us.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Riya on being named Ohio's 13th District Champion of the Week.

DANGEROUS HATRED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a dangerous event yesterday in Michigan, anti-Israel activists shouted, "death to America" and

"death to Israel," repeating the Iranian regime chants.

This event was in recognition of Al-Quds Day to advocate for the mass murder of the people of Israel. It reinforced that, 6 months ago, Iranian puppet Hamas invaded Israel, murdering over 1,200 Israeli civilians.

Incredibly, in America, a rally speaker hatefully spouted: "So when these fools ask us if Israel has the right to exist . . . the chant 'death to Israel' has become the most logical chant."

When attacks come to America to disrupt elections, voting on election day must be in person, while including military ballots that are mailed in.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new laws for the border. We need to enforce the existing laws. Biden shamefully has opened the borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING NORTH HIGH SCHOOL BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the North High School boys basketball team for their remarkable accomplishment of winning back-to-back Massachusetts Division 1 State championships. I want to recognize Principal Sam FanFan, Coach Pettway, and all the players on their historic run.

Last year, they were the first public school team from my home city of Worcester to win a Division 1 State championship.

North High forward Carl-Hens Beliard graduated that year and went on to Salem State University to continue his academic and athletic career. Tragically, Carl-Hens lost his life to senseless gun violence last fall. It was heartbreaking for the North High community and the entire city of Worcester.

The team dedicated this season to Carl-Hens and emerged more determined than ever. On March 17, the Polar Bears went to the State championship and won their 45th straight game to cap off a perfect 24-0 season.

Mr. Speaker, the talent, work ethic, and resilience of this team has made all of Worcester proud.

RESTORING ACCOUNTABILITY AND FAIRNESS TO THE IRS APPEALS PROCESS

(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, as the IRS' tax filing deadline quickly approaches, safeguarding the rights of

taxpayers across our Nation is top of mind for me and for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to advocate for H.R. 6332, the Strengthen Taxpayer Rights Act of 2023.

At the heart of this bill, it is a simple, yet powerful principle: Taxpayers have a right to a fair and impartial appeals process.

H.R. 6332 restores accountability and fairness to the appeals process by ensuring that taxpayers have a say in who does and who does not get to participate in their own appeals conference before the IRS' Independent Office of Appeals.

In passing the Strengthen Taxpayer Rights Act, we should send a clear message: The rights of taxpayers are non-negotiable.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with me and recommit to fairness, justice, and the fundamental rights of every taxpayer.

AUGUST FIRES ON MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, after the fires last August struck the island of Maui, one of the first people to approach me in this Chamber was my colleague and now friend, Congressman DOUG LAMALFA.

Few districts have experienced the tragedy of wildfires like California's First, and prior to the Maui fires, the Camp fire held the record as the deadliest American wildfire of the last century.

This past recess, I participated in a bipartisan exchange with Congressman LAMALFA. I went to the town of Paradise. I learned of the challenges and opportunities in recovery. I saw the rebuilding of schools and homes that had burned, and I left feeling hopeful.

Congressman LAMALFA also joined me in Lahaina, attending the dedication of the new temporary school, even breaking in the new basketball court, playing ball with our Governor. I must add neither of them will be quitting their day jobs.

The gentleman walked with us through Lahaina, met with our community, and answered their many, many questions. There is a definite comfort knowing that, while the road ahead for our communities is long, we aren't on it alone.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have a trusted partner and friend in Congressman LAMALFA, and I look forward to the work we will do together.

CONGRATULATING ANGIE GIANCARLO ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Angie

Giancarlo, who is retiring from government service, having served our country for 25 years.

When Angie told me about her retirement, I told her I would support her, especially if she chose to reconsider. Alas, she is retiring, so I would like to take this opportunity to honor her 13 years spent on the House Appropriations Committee.

It is hard to put our appreciation into words, but as appropriators, we are at our best when we express it in numbers. As professional staff and clerk, Angie helped usher 12 energy and water bills through successful passage of the House and 14 bills through final enactment. Conservatively, that means she also had to directly consider over 600 amendments to get there.

I will spare everyone an accounting on all the talking points that it entails but rest assured Angie had correct comma placement in every single one of them. The countless hours Angie dedicated to the Committee made this place a better place, and we greatly appreciate it.

I feel very lucky that we have been able to work on this bill with Angie as clerk, and I am proud of her accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for myself, the Committee, and the United States Congress when I express my utmost appreciation for her dedicated service over the years.

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CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAY OF A FEARLESS LEADER, DOLORES HUERTA

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the birthday of a fearless trailblazer and a symbol of hope: Dolores Huerta.

At 94 years old, she is still fighting the fight for economic justice, social justice, and justice for all workers.

Just last week, we were together reaffirming our commitment to workers' rights during a Cesar Chavez celebration. As the cofounder of the United Farm Workers, she mobilized local communities to fight for the rights of workers everywhere. Dolores understood that to create a movement, you need to empower the next generation of leaders so your work extends far beyond your lifetime.

With every organizer she trained, she helped create a ripple of change that organized and transformed committees decades after she uttered those famous words, "yes, it can be done," "si, se puede," a movement that still continues to this day.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dolores a happy birthday.

FEDERAL MINIMUM FOR CHILD RAPE MUST BE THE DEATH PEN- ALTY

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

Mrs. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, today, I address the fundamental principle of justice: the punishment of those who commit the most egregious crimes against the innocence of our children. It is a matter that strikes at the very core of our values and demands our unwavering attention and action.

There will be those who argue that the death penalty is unconstitutional, but let me be unequivocal: When it comes to protecting our children from the horrors of child rape, the death penalty is not only constitutional, but it is morally imperative.

Our Constitution stands as a beacon of freedom and justice, crafted to safeguard the rights and liberties of every American. Yet, what greater violation of those rights could there be than the brutal and unforgivable abuse of our most vulnerable—our children.

The Federal minimum for child rape must be upgraded to the death penalty and a minimum of life behind bars. For it is not merely a matter of punishment, but of deterrence and justice.

We must send a resounding message to those who would prey upon our children that such heinous crimes will not be tolerated in our society and those who commit them will be faced with death.

WE MUST STAND WITH ISRAEL

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, October 7 was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Hamas killed over 1,200 innocent Israeli people, including women, children, the elderly, and took over 240 hostages.

Israel is one of our Nation's greatest allies. The intelligence we received from them helps us combat terrorism every day. President Biden's demand that they surrender or cease to pursue Hamas in response is a slap in the face to victims. It is sickening to see our President support a terrorist organization that circulated videos of themselves murdering innocent children over an ally that has helped protect our homeland for decades.

Hamas is working toward the genocidal eradication of the only successful democracy in the Middle East. Now more than ever, we must stand with Israel and fight anti-Semitism. I support H. Res. 1117 to oppose the one-sided pressure on Israel, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.