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No. 67

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 17, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. 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.

### IN RECOGNITION OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISCOVERY OF NEW YORK BAY BY GIOVANNI DA VERRAZZANO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the discovery of New York Bay by Giovanni da Verrazzano, which occurred 500 years ago today.

Giovanni da Verrazzano of Florence, Italy, was the first to lead an expedi-

tion to find a western passage from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. On April 17, 1524, Verrazzano entered New York Bay, becoming the first to chart the East Coast of the United States.

His discovery expanded maritime knowledge and sparked inspiration for other explorations, including Henry Hudson's voyage to New York Bay that established New Amsterdam 85 years later.

Since then, New York City has become a global economic hub for trade and commerce and has the highest economic impact of any city in the United States.

To commemorate the significant impact of Verrazzano's discovery, in 1960, Governor Rockefeller named the bridge in our district connecting the boroughs of Staten Island and Brooklyn the Verrazzano Narrows Bridge.

Since 1885, the Statue of Liberty has proudly sat in New York Bay, where she welcomed over 12 million immigrants who legally passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1954. Today, New York City is home to 8.8 million people, 800,000 of whom are of Italian descent, with the largest population of Italian-Americans residing in my district.

New York City takes great pride in Giovanni da Verrazzano's discovery, and I join our community in celebrating his historic achievements today.

### THE BORDER IS NOT SECURE

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a New York City Representative in a post-9/11 world to talk about how concerned I am that our border is not secure.

Since Joe Biden took office, CBP has encountered at least 340 individuals on the terrorist watch list along the southern border or in our interior.

For example, an Afghan migrant on the terrorist watch list spent nearly 1 year inside the United States after he was apprehended and released by CBP

agents in March of 2023. He was processed at the border.

CBP released him without alerting ICE officials about potential terrorism ties, and he was free to fly domestically in the United States. He was arrested in February 2024, then released by an immigration judge in March, who was not told that he was a national security risk.

Last month, an illegal immigrant from Lebanon caught at the border admitted to CBP that he was a member of Hezbollah and was headed to New York to try to make a bomb.

In February of 2024, ICE apprehended another terrorist who was allowed to roam in the U.S. for nearly 1 year after crossing the border illegally, and the terrorist was a member of Al-Shabaab, who was only arrested after ICE became aware of his threat to national security.

Additionally, in February, a Colombian man on the terrorist watch list was caught crossing into the Eagle Pass area.

In August of last year, it was discovered that a smuggler with ISIS ties helped more than a dozen Uzbek migrants into the United States over the southern border.

In April of 2021, CBP announced that they had arrested two Yemeni men on the terrorist watch list in separate incidents as they attempted to illegally cross the southern border in California, and they were both on no-fly lists.

Again, we have caught at least 340 individuals, either at the border or in the interior. However, the more concerning number is who did we not catch? We know that nearly 2 million people, estimated by CBP, have entered this country without any encounter by government or law enforcement. We don't know who they are, where they are, or what their intentions are. That comes down to about 800 individuals a day.

We need to secure our border, particularly with growing threats from

□ 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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Iran—who said they want to commit an attack on our own soil—and Russia and China. If we are going to send our allies money, which we should support our allies, we need to ensure that our own homeland is secure against these threats, as well.

Even the FBI Director is confirming that joint terrorism task forces in all 56 of FBI's field offices are occupied with threats coming across our border.

It is unconscionable to me that the President refuses to reverse any of his more than 60 border policies that he changed via executive order. It is also unconscionable to me that Senator SCHUMER refuses to work with us to force the President to reverse these policies, because the President has discretion and put these policies in place to begin with and can reverse them.

I believe our Speaker needs to go back to Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER and say: If we are going to pass foreign aid, we must have at least a few commonsense border protection measures in there. I don't think it is that hard to ask from Republicans or Democrats to say at least let's prohibit individuals who are gang members, terrorists, or criminals from entering into this country.

#### AN EMBATTLED ISRAEL AND A BELEAGUERED UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. McCORMICK). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I would remind the previous speaker of the bipartisan bill from the Senate, which does, in fact, deal with the critical issue she raised. The leadership of the Republican Party has refused to take up that bill.

However, there is a more important issue that confronts this House that we should have acted on days, weeks, months ago. That is the security of the global community, the sanctity of international law, and the saving of the sovereignty of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of an embattled Israel and a beleaguered Ukraine and apprehensive allies around the world.

A month ago, Speaker JOHNSON said: "No one wants Vladimir Putin to prevail. I am of the opinion that he wouldn't stop in Ukraine. If he was allowed, he'd go through all the way through Europe."

The Speaker said: "There is a right and wrong there—a good versus evil, in my view. And Ukraine is the victim here. They were invaded. We stand with good."

The Speaker went on to say: "I understand the timetable and I understand the necessity of the urgency of the funding."

Yet, we twiddle our thumbs without any paper on this floor as to how we are going to affect the urgent end of which the Speaker spoke.

Speaker JOHNSON then said on April 16: "We need steady leadership. We

need steady hands on the wheel. Look, I regard myself as a wartime Speaker."

If the Speaker regards himself as that, Speaker JOHNSON must act now. There is no time for delay. There is no time for political chaos to impede our aid to Ukraine.

Clearly, we are not acting urgently. If we did, we would have allowed us to pass the Senate national security bill a long time ago. Putin has to be happy with the failure to bring the Senate bill to the floor. It must look like "Gulliver's Travels" with the little people in America, the Lilliputians who are in our midst tying down America's ability to respond.

We have seen the consequences of House inaction. Over the weekend, Iran made an unprecedented attack on Israel, launching roughly 350 drones and missiles at targets across the country. They see an unresolved United States, although Israel shot down nearly all of them with the support of America.

God bless President Biden and our allies. The audacity and breadth of Iran's attack ought to concern us all as Americans and as global citizens.

In Ukraine, we have allowed our allies to run so low on ammunition that their air defenses cannot fend off similar air attacks. Shame on America. Shame on this House.

Indeed, Iran supplies Putin with the same drones and missiles to strike Ukrainian cities. Meanwhile, Ukraine's soldiers are so starved for ammunition that they wade into swamps in search of abandoned Russian artillery shells they can reuse. That is how committed they are to winning this war, and that is how desperate they are for our aid. This Congress has failed to provide it for them for 473 days.

The world watches us and wonders: Does America remain the defender of freedom, democracy, and its allies, or has the wellspring of democracy run dry? The free world expects more from the great arsenal of democracy, and so should we.

Most Members of this House agree. Over 300 Members of this House have voted for the proposition contained in the Senate bill. On seven occasions in the past year, over 300 Democrats and Republicans voted to aid Ukraine. Even more of us voted to aid Israel.

We are not a silent majority, but a silenced majority, silenced by a Speaker who refused to give us a vote. It will pass. He could put the Senate supplemental on the floor at any moment. It would pass with a large bipartisan majority.

Freedom is waiting upon us today. International law is waiting for us to redress the grievance that has occurred by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, let us act now.

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

Mr. HOYER. Ukraine's time has expired.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID PLANNING

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest hockey coaches of all time, Herb Brooks, once said: "Let me start with issuing you a challenge: Be better than you are. Set a goal that seems unattainable, and when you reach that goal, set another one even higher."

I can think of few people who have consistently risen to that challenge better than our floor director, David Planning.

As the head of our whip operation for the last 1½ years, David has played an integral part in making sure our House Republican majority delivers on our agenda for the American people, and with the slimmest majority in history, who only controls barely one-half of one-third of the government, making sure we get our priorities across the finish line is no easy feat.

However, in large part, thanks to David's grit, professionalism, and insatiable desire to win, House Republicans have been able to pass signature pieces of legislation that much larger majorities could not.

Nevertheless, it is not just David's fierce competitiveness that makes him great. It is the intentional relationships he has created with people across every sector of our Conference. It is the steadiness he exudes no matter how high the stakes, and it is his positivity that not only makes him a winner, but makes him an incredible teammate.

Competitor, winner, teammate—those are the words that come to mind when I think about David Planning. Although we are quite sad for him to leave us as he moves on to another career opportunity at the end of the month, I have no doubt that those characteristics will continue to carry him far.

David, thank you for your service, not just to our office, but for our entire House Republican Conference. Thank you for your steadfast commitment to our commonsense conservative agenda. Thank you for giving up so many nights, weekends, and holidays to make sure that our Conference is successful in our mission to counteract Joe Biden and the Democrats' failed agenda.

Mr. Speaker, most importantly, I thank him for his friendship and the incredible memories that we are going to have from the last 15 months. May he never stop setting and reaching his goals. We cannot wait to see how he excels outside the Halls of Congress, and we wish him nothing but the best in his next chapter.

□ 1015

#### CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE AND DE-ESCALATION IN MIDDLE EAST

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from