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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 8, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL CLOUD 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.

GEORGIA'S BURKE COUNTY LEADING IN AMERICA'S NUCLEAR ENERGY

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Company, Oglethorpe Power, MEAG Power, Dalton Utilities, and all partners involved in Plant Vogtle's Unit 4 officially coming online.

At the heart of Georgia's 12th District in Burke County, we are home to Plant Vogtle, where the first two new

nuclear reactors to be constructed in over three decades in the United States are now fully operational, representing a key investment in Georgia's energy future. Unit 3 entered commercial operation in July 2023, and now Unit 4 has followed suit.

This historic achievement has been years in the making and proves that America can still do big things. Plant Vogtle is now officially the largest nuclear power station in the country, and I am proud that Georgia's 12th District is a leader in America's nuclear energy future.

As I have said many times before, an all-of-the-above energy strategy is critical to reclaiming American energy dominance, and nuclear—our Nation's largest source of clean energy—has a pivotal role to play.

Throughout the Nation, we have 11,000 utility-scale electric power plants currently under operation, less than 60 of which are nuclear power plants. Even with such a relatively small footprint, nuclear energy accounts for approximately 20 percent of our energy production and approximately 50 percent of all emission-free energy generated in the country.

Nuclear power plants can operate 24/7, providing a stable baseload supply of electricity. This reliability is crucial for maintaining grid stability and ensuring uninterrupted power supply, particularly during periods of high demand or adverse weather conditions.

Since being elected to Congress, I have visited Plant Vogtle on numerous occasions to witness various stages of progress throughout the Unit 3 and Unit 4 construction process. In fact, I visited there just before loading of the fuel and was inside the container right before beginning operation of Unit 4.

Seeing this project come to fruition is nothing short of remarkable. Just last week, I was joined by fellow Members of Congress and industry leaders in Augusta for an informative panel

discussion on the benefits of nuclear energy expansion in the U.S., followed by a visit to Plant Vogtle to see the new units up and running.

Plant Vogtle is providing safe, reliable, emission-free energy to consumers and businesses across the Peach State and beyond, with each of the new units able to produce enough electricity to power an estimated 500,000 homes and businesses. It will continue to generate power for decades to come.

This massive accomplishment certainly came with its challenges along the way, but as we do in Georgia, we persevered. This historic milestone is a major win for all Georgians and America as a whole, and I would like to once again congratulate Southern Company, Oglethorpe Power, MEAG Power, Dalton Utilities, and all partners involved in this tremendous success through their perseverance.

I look forward to continuing my work on the House Energy and Commerce Committee to enact innovative solutions that further bolster America's clean energy future. I am proud that our bipartisan nuclear energy package will soon be on its way to the President's desk for signature, which includes my bill, the Nuclear Licensing Efficiency Act, to reform and streamline nuclear licensing and the permitting process.

FUNDING HEAD START

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, for decades, Head Start and Early Head Start programs have provided comprehensive childhood development services to millions of children across America.

Research is showing that participation in Head Start can lead to positive outcomes for our children. By providing children with a strong foundation in their early years, Head Start

□ 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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helps level the playing field, especially for disadvantaged children, and gives them a better chance at academic success.

House Democrats have made it clear that investing in America's children will always be among our highest priorities. Thanks to investments we have fought for in the budget, we are working to ensure that Federal dollars reach every corner of the country.

In my district, I have secured \$23 million for Fresno County and \$22 million for Tulare County Head Start and Early Head Start programs. These funds will provide families with health and support services while growing the next generation of leaders in the San Joaquin Valley and in California.

Investing in education is investing in our children's future because when our children succeed, America succeeds.

HONORING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to recognize what has been taking place this week in this country and around the world, and that is commemorating Yom HaShoah ending in 1945, recognizing the 6 million Jewish victims who were killed in the Holocaust.

Sadly, on October 7 last year, 79 years after the Holocaust, we witnessed a terrorist organization, Hamas, rape, execute, and take hostages. Over 1,400 Israelis, Americans, and other nationalities were killed, which was the largest killing of Jews since the Holocaust.

There is clear evidence of the rising threat of hate and anti-Semitism being spread here at home and across the world.

I commend President Biden and Speaker JOHNSON yesterday for bringing together a bipartisan gathering to speak against anti-Semitism and the challenges here in America. In the United States, anti-Semitic incidents have soared over 140 percent in 2023, breaking all previous records.

In America, we support free speech and peaceful protests, but disrupting academic education and attacking Jewish students and faculty have no place on college campuses or universities in America. It must be stopped.

We must unmask groups like the National Students for Justice in Palestine for what they are. They celebrated on October 8 the actions of Hamas that took 1,400 Israeli lives.

This is an extension of terrorist groups like Hamas. Hamas' mission statement is to eliminate the State of Israel and to kill Jews, as referenced in their slogan: "From the River to Sea." The river is the Jordan River, and the sea is the Mediterranean. Their purpose is to eliminate the State of Israel and kill Jewish people.

We must work together to break this cycle of hate that is plaguing our society and putting lives at risk around the world. In an era of rising anti-Semitism coupled with fading memory of the Holocaust, we must fight conspiracy theories and ensure the lessons of the past are never ever forgotten.

Last month, I was in Israel, and I went to the Nova concert site to witness the makeshift memorial where 364 concertgoers, innocent people, were killed on October 7.

Last week, I participated in a bipartisan visit of Members to the Holocaust Museum for an exhibit that clearly raises the issues of anti-Semitism in America in the 1920s and 1930s, which was led in part by prominent Americans like Henry Ford and Charles Lindbergh.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and others coming to Washington to go to see this comparative analogy of anti-Semitism from the 1920s and 1930s to what we are dealing with here today. For it is real, and we must do everything together to combat this plague of anti-Semitism, the politics of hate, and the politics of fear. For as the famous historian George Santayana once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

That is why it is important that we recognize this anniversary of the Holocaust and why we remember October 7 of last year. It is not a lingering, distant, fading memory. It is a reality that we have to deal with here today.

RECOGNIZING MILITARY
APPRECIATION MONTH

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 in honor of Military Appreciation Month.

With 24 years of service in the Army and now representing a congressional district with a significant Active-Duty and veteran population, I am deeply honored to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our Nation's heroes.

Military Appreciation Month was proposed by the late Senator John McCain in February 1999. Two months later, Congress voted to officially designate May as the nationally recognized period for honoring the military, culminating with Memorial Day.

Across the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force, there are more than 2.8 million service-members worldwide tasked with protecting the freedoms we enjoy here at home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all those who serve and have served. May God bless them, and may God bless the United States of America.

HONORING IOWA'S FIRST RESPONDERS AND RED
CROSS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the first responders across Iowa who were on the front lines following the recent tornado outbreaks across the State.

As Iowans, we are no strangers to severe weather. Every summer, we do what we can to prepare for the inevitable derecho, floods, severe thunderstorms, and potential tornadoes.

While we prepare for the worst, Iowa's first responders are the heroes on the ground, quickly jumping into action for people impacted by the horrific storms. Without our first responders, severe weather events like the ones so many Iowans experienced on April 26 would be much more catastrophic and deadly.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in commending these brave heroes and thanking them for their unbreaking commitment to the safety of all Iowans and all Americans.

CONGRATULATING NURSE WENDY DONALD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Wendy Donald, who was named School Nurse of the Year for 2024 by the Iowa School Nurse Organization.

With more than 25 years of nursing experience and 7 years serving the Muscatine School District, Wendy's dedication shines through. She advocates tirelessly for the inclusion of school nurses in decisionmaking processes and collaborates with educators, parents, and healthcare professionals to meet the diverse needs of our students.

Wendy's proactive approach extends beyond the school walls, working closely with local healthcare providers to promote community health. Her initiatives, such as raising funds for children in the ER, exemplify her innovative thinking and compassion.

As a former nurse, I certainly recognize these attributes. Let's recognize Wendy's profound impact on our community.

I congratulate Wendy on this well-deserved recognition, and I thank her for her service and for inspiring us all.

NATIONAL SKILLED TRADES DAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Skilled Trades Day, which took place on May 1 this year.

In Iowa and across the Nation, our skilled tradespeople aren't just contributors to the economy, they are the heartbeat of our communities, shaping our infrastructure and crafting the world we live in. From carpenters shaping our homes to HVAC technicians keeping us comfortable, these individuals are the unsung heroes of our local communities.

Today, I stand proud to honor their contributions and reaffirm my commitment to champion their interests in Congress. Let us continue to support and celebrate the skilled trades, ensuring that future generations can pursue these fulfilling and essential careers.

CELEBRATING NEWLY DRAFTED IOWA HAWKEYES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Iowa Hawkeyes Cooper DeJean, Erick All, Tory Taylor, and Logan Lee for recently being drafted into the National Football League.

Iowa is world-renowned for cultivating athletic talent, and these elite athletes will join 37 other Hawkeyes currently playing in the NFL. Coach