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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MAY 17, 2024

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Mark Westerfield, Central Baptist Church Round Rock, Round Rock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Our Father in Heaven, I am humbled to stand before You and these honored and distinguished men and women today, to stand in the gap and offer this prayer.

Today, we gratefully recognize the gift of life, liberty, and responsibility You have given us to lead this great country. On behalf of these men and women, I ask for wisdom, discernment, and unity as they carry the weight of caring for the close to 350 million citizens of this land. They carry the weight of protecting all lives and making sure that justice is paramount.

We stand today on the backs of many that have gone before, and we stand grateful that You have shown grace and mercy to each of us.

Please give each of these servants the skin of a rhino and the heart of a lamb. We humbly ask this in Your holy name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

WELCOMING GUEST CHAPLAIN MARK WESTERFIELD

The SPEAKER. Without objection the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to introduce my longtime friend, Pastor Mark Westerfield, who I have the honor of hosting as our guest chaplain in the House today.

Mark is the senior pastor at Central Baptist Church in my hometown of Round Rock, Texas, where he began his ministry nearly 40 years ago.

Under his leadership, Central Baptist has expanded to a house of worship services, a variety of ministries, Bible studies, and the prestigious Round Rock Christian Academy.

His impact has extended far beyond the walls of his church. He has been instrumental in organizing the annual Love the Rock volunteer event that marshals volunteers from 40 different churches to unite for a single day in service to help their neighbors in Round Rock.

Mark embodies what is great about the close-knit central Texas community where I live and how we come together to make our city a better place to live. I am grateful that Mark Westerfield is joining us as our guest chaplain.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 5 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

FREE AMERICAN HOSTAGES

(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, Roger Zakheim, director of the Ronald Reagan Institute and former general counsel of the House Armed Services Committee, published an op-ed on Wednesday in The Washington Post calling for freeing American hostages from Iran puppet Hamas terrorists: Shifting away from mediation to a more aggressive stance to demonstrate that the United States does not leave its citizens behind.

Corrupt Judge Merchan qualifies daily for my invitation as guest for the Trump inauguration as Merchan reelects Donald Trump.

I am glad untrue, false, salacious details of Merchan's perverted sexual conduct have not been admitted as lies of Merchan's untrue, fabricated, illegal conduct is ignored. Donald Trump will

□ 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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be reelected due to the rejection of corrupt Judge Merchan's derangement.

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

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

Christians appreciate the courage and the truth of Kansas City kicker Harrison Butker. Coach Lou Holtz is correct.

HONORING REVEREND WILLIAM LAWSON

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Reverend William "Bill" Lawson.

Reverend Lawson was a giant in Houston. He was a warrior against the evils of discrimination, of poverty, and of homelessness, lifting basic human dignity to its highest heights.

During the peak season of the civil rights era, he was a key leader in Houston where his best work was often behind the scenes.

A patriot for peace, Reverend Lawson organized quiet desegregation of Houston through secret meetings with the business community, a plan that kept away violence and bombings that were rampant across the South.

Reverend Lawson was always on the right side of good trouble. The positivity he brought to our community will be felt for years to come. Houston will miss Reverend Lawson and his quiet demeanor and his endearing smile.

I send my love and condolences to the entire Lawson family as we remember him and all that he accomplished. Well done, good and faithful servant.

THE GREAT STATE OF IOWA

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I was born and raised in Iowa, and I have always known that it was the place that I wanted to live and raise my family.

Recently, U.S. News and World Report caught up to what Iowans have known for a long time and officially ranked Iowa as one of the best States to live. They also ranked Iowa third for new opportunities. Under Governor Kim Reynolds, Iowa is flourishing.

While President Biden spent trillions of taxpayer dollars on woke priorities and created rampant inflation, Iowa cut taxes for families.

While President Biden opened our borders and allowed countless illegal

immigrants to invade, Iowa is working to deport illegal immigrants who endanger our communities.

Iowa is a model for the rest of the country. Our prosperity under Governor Reynolds is the perfect contrast to Joe Biden's national failures. Iowa is leading the way with commonsense conservatism, and our future is bright.

HONORING DEPUTY SHERIFF GLENN HILLIARD

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

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, as we commemorate National Police Week, I take a moment to honor the memory of Wicomico County Deputy Sheriff Glenn Hilliard, a heroic Maryland Eastern Shore police officer who was killed in the line of duty while protecting his community from a violent criminal; unfortunately, an all too often occurrence in today's America.

In the evening hours of June 12, 2022, Officer Hilliard received a call that a fleeing fugitive was in the surrounding area.

While certainly potentially dangerous, this call wasn't much different from the hundreds of calls for help the Wicomico County police departments and police departments across the country receive daily as they confront crime to protect our communities.

Sadly, for Officer Hilliard, this call to duty would be his last. As he pursued the wanted criminal, the fugitive turned and fired, ultimately taking the life of Officer Hilliard.

As Officer Hilliard's family reminds us, he died doing what he loved and left behind a legacy of selflessly defending his community. In the end, it was not the way Officer Hilliard died but the way he lived.

As we honor National Police Week, let's take a moment to thank the many police officers who risk their lives so we can be safe.

May the memory of Officer Glenn Hilliard and all our fallen police officers never be forgotten.

PRATT'S COUNTRY STORE

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the good folks at Pratt's Country Store in Fountain City. They have been longtime friends of mine and my family.

Perry Pratt's grandfather and brother bought the acreage in the 1920s, and it has been family owned and family operated ever since, Mr. Speaker.

Pratt's sells fresh produce, dairy, baked goods, and fruits. My mama always loved to shop there. I always like to stop there, as well.

The whole family grew up working in and around the store, and you can tell.

They treat everyone like family when they walk in.

I also never have to worry about where the produce comes from, Mr. Speaker, because Pratt's is known for locally sourcing their food from east Tennessee farmers.

I always love walking into Pratt's because it just smells good. It smells like an old country store, it smells fresh, and it smells clean. They do things the old-fashioned way, and they make people feel like they are stepping back in time.

Ralph and Perry Pratt were recently honored as Fountain City's Men of the Year due to their amazing customer service.

Everyone that goes to Pratt's Country Store knows how delicious everything is, and they have some really great vegetables.

As good as their produce is, though, Mr. Speaker, they are best known for the family atmosphere. They are God-fearing people, and they have always been respected in our community. They have been here for three generations for a reason. I want them to know they are appreciated, and I hope they are around for several more generations.

□ 0915

RESOLUTION REGARDING VIOLENCE AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1227, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 1213), a resolution regarding violence against law enforcement officers, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GUEST). Pursuant to House Resolution 1227, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1213

Whereas, beginning in 2020, and in conjunction with the "defund the police" movement, respect for the rule of law and law enforcement officials diminished;

Whereas this change in attitude has resulted in record death and injury to America's law enforcement officers at the Federal, State, local, and Tribal level;

Whereas policies implemented at several State and local jurisdictions have increased the difficulty and added significant risks for law enforcement to do their jobs effectively and safely;

Whereas law enforcement is demanded to handle societal problems, including a nationwide mental health crisis, record-setting overdose poisonings due to fentanyl, and an increase in the homeless population;

Whereas the lack of accountability for violent criminals with decreased penalties and no-bail policies has opened the door for record criminal activity in cities across the country;

Whereas these policies have encouraged the public to aggressively and violently engage with law enforcement;

Whereas law enforcement officers answer every service call, regardless of community support or ridicule;