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No. 19

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS of New York).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 1, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRANDON WILLIAMS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Dr. Michael Cramer, New Life Church, Osceola, Indiana, offered the following prayer:

Holy, Heavenly Father, creator and sustainer of this universe, You have given us the greatest Nation in the world to care for as stewards of Your people, Your resources, and Your land. Forgive us of our shortcomings.

You have assembled these specific Representatives here today to fulfill a precise purpose in Your sovereign, eternal plan.

You tell us that blessed is the Nation whose God is You. You tell us You give wisdom freely to all who ask.

So we call on You today for Your wisdom in the matters to be discussed and determined. We look to You today for unity. We draw on Your strength. We ask for Your grace and mercy to accomplish all things in a manner that is pleasing to You.

We yield all things to Your complete and sovereign will and pray this in the name of Your eternal Son, Jesus Christ.

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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 PASTOR MICHAEL CRAMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. YAKYM) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our guest chaplain, my dear friend, Dr. Michael Cramer, who serves as lead pastor at my home church, New Life Baptist Church, in Osceola, Indiana.

Dr. Cramer earned degrees from Word of Life Bible Institute, Moody Bible Institute, Liberty Theological Seminary, and Grace Theological Seminary.

My parents began attending the church when I was just 1 year old, and my earliest childhood memories are with the Cramer family.

My wife and I were there when he married the love of his life, Jaymie, and we celebrated the arrival of their three children, Bella, Mia, and Ethan. I also stood next to him as a pallbearer at the funeral of his 28-year-old brother, Joseph.

Mr. Speaker, I and so many others in Indiana's Second District will forever be grateful for the impact that Dr. Michael Cramer has had on us as individuals, as well as the Kingdom of God.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

TRIBUTE TO HOPE ALLISON DABNEY

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

Mr. HERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable American, Hope Allison Dabney.

To all who knew her, Hope's infectious smile and warm demeanor impacted the lives of so many.

Hope was a cherished daughter, sister, cousin, niece, granddaughter, and friend.

She was a dedicated gymnast, a talented singer, a skillful pole-vaulter, a fierce Auburn football fan, and hundreds of other things.

☐ 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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As a testament to Hope's character, she volunteered at River Edge, a non-profit organization in Georgia that provides mental health and substance use disorder treatment, as well as services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

The news of her passing at just 26 years of age has left many hearts broken across the country. May we find solace in the knowledge that her spirit lives on in the hearts of those she touched. May Hope's legacy inspire acts of kindness and warmth, echoing the love and friendliness that defines her time with us for so many years.

My wife, Tammy, and I, along with the staff of Oklahoma's First Congressional District unite in prayer for the Dabney family and all those who were blessed to know Hope.

IN HONOR OF DR. FRED PRIMM

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and legacy of Dr. Fred Primm, who passed away on January 19, 2024, at the age of 57.

Dr. Primm was a true Renaissance man. He was an educator, Air Force Naval Reservist, pastor, teacher, coach, adjunct professor, consultant, a Kappa man, and the superintendent for Sumter County Schools and Bessemer City Schools.

Dr. Primm was truly a respected and beloved community leader. Educated at Alabama A&M, Auburn, and Nova Southeastern, Dr. Primm was a true servant leader, and he led in every aspect of his life. He made his commitment to serving others his life's top priority, and serve he did. Our community and the lives of his students are all the better because of him.

His life is a true testament to the transformational power of education.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the exceptional life and legacy of Dr. Fred Primm.

May his family find comfort in knowing that his legacy will live on in the many lives that he touched.

ISRAELI HOSTAGES

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

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share the story of Ziv and Gali Berman.

Ziv and Gali are 26-year-old twin brothers. Like many twin brothers with that special bond, they do everything together. They work as light technicians in the same sound and light company, root for the same soccer team, and have traveled the world together.

They were also, tragically, 2 of more than 240 men, women, children, and el-

derly who were brutally kidnapped by Hamas terrorists on October 7.

For 118 days now, Ziv and Gali have endured unspeakable horrors at the hands of their Hamas captors in Gaza. For 118 days, they have had to summon the incredible courage to hope, not sure if they will ever see their home and family again.

I rise today not only to share their story, but also to demand that Hamas release Ziv and Gali immediately, along with the more than 130 hostages remaining in Gaza.

Israel has acted in good faith during the ongoing negotiations. They have shown they are serious about a pause in fighting so hostages can be returned home. It is past time to bring Ziv and Gali home.

It is past time to bring them all home.

DRACONIAN LAWS IMPOSED ON THE STATE OF TEXAS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing the barbaric consequences of the draconian laws that extreme MAGA Republicans are imposing on the State of Texas.

Over 26,000 women have become pregnant after being raped since Texas outlawed abortion with no exceptions. Let me repeat that: 26,000 women. This could be your daughter, sister, cousin, niece, or mother.

Experiencing sexual assault is one of the hardest things that a woman can heal from.

Greg Abbott and Texas Republicans have made it a mission to trap women, destroy their plans and goals, and ultimately chain them to their trauma for the rest of their lives.

No woman should be shamed for what they have been through.

I will continue to fight for reproductive rights and make sure that no woman should be afraid to make the decisions that are right for her. I will always fight for people over politics.

HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since being sworn into office, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas has failed in his duty to keep our Nation safe.

In December, more than 300,000 illegal immigrants crossed into our country.

By using so-called parole to allow millions of illegal immigrants into the United States and by ending the remain in Mexico policy, Secretary Mayorkas has manufactured a national security disaster.

This crisis isn't just contained to Texas and Arizona. The deadly drugs, like fentanyl, that have poured into our Nation on Secretary Mayorkas' watch have made each and every State a border State.

It is clear that Secretary Mayorkas is unfit to hold office, that his inaction has cost Americans dearly. It has cost American lives.

It is time for this Congress to impeach Secretary Mayorkas for his failure to uphold the law.

ONE YEAR SINCE DERAILMENT

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

Mr. DELUZIO. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this weekend, my constituents in Beaver County and our East Palestine neighbors lived through Norfolk Southern's disastrous train derailment. They caused a massive toxic fireball. Frankly, we are lucky that no one died.

Since then, what has Congress done to protect our communities, to make freight rail safer?

Absolutely nothing.

Folks in western Pennsylvania are sick and tired of being treated like collateral damage in the way of corporate profits.

Those railroad profits have not been shabby. From 2018 to last year, Norfolk Southern enriched their shareholders with \$18 billion.

My bill, the Railway Safety Act, is supported by the Biden administration and former President Trump and will make rail safer. This shouldn't be partisan. Along with my Democratic colleagues, I am joined by nine Republican cosponsors, and, yet, nothing has changed.

The railroads are running the show here like it is the 19th century. It is time for politicians to stop carrying their water, to stop treating my constituents and our neighbors like fodder.

We need action. It is time to pass the Railway Safety Act.

CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNERS

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for one minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the winners of this year's Virginia's Fifth District Congressional App Challenge.

Every year, middle and high school students submit their applications to participate in the Congressional App Challenge, a complex competition where students interested in STEM code an application of their preference.

Adrian Park, Sean Fu, and Emmet Lach from Albemarle High School produced an extraordinary app, called Illness IQ, to help individuals detect and diagnose medical symptoms without having to see a doctor.