

With all of that activity, it is clear an organized effort is required to sustain the Long Island Sound economy in a way that balances growth with its core natural coastal habitat.

To respond to this need, Congress passed the Long Island Sound Stewardship Act, which provided Federal dollars going back to 2006 for projects to revitalize the wildlife population. In 2018, Congress reauthorized that law and greatly expanded the annual investment to \$40 million per year. Thanks to that funding, the amount of nitrogen entering Long Island Sound from sewage treatment plants has been reduced by 70 percent compared to the 1990s; hypoxic conditions have been reduced by 58 percent compared to the 1990s; over 2,239 acres of coastal habitat have been restored; and 570 conservation projects have been funded.

□ 1215

Through the advocacy of Congresswoman ROSA DELAURO, Long Island Sound received \$40 million in both 2023 and 2024, the largest funding level in the history of the program.

Mr. Speaker, to ensure that Congress can continue to support this amazing success, we must move quickly tonight and pass H.R. 5441.

Again, I thank my fellow Caucus co-chair, Representative LALOTA from New York, and the Natural Resources Committee for their leadership in moving this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this bill.

WELCOMING LIAT BEININ ATZILI

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to welcome Liat Beinini Atzili to Washington, D.C. She is visiting the White House today to advocate for the safe return of all Israeli hostages being held by Hamas.

Liat, a dual American-Israeli citizen, and her husband, Aviv, were violently taken hostage by Hamas on October 7 from their Kibbutz Nir Oz.

Liat's extended family lives in Waterford, Connecticut. She had, in fact, visited that coastal town just weeks before the October 7 attack.

When her cousin in Waterford, resident Jerry Fischer, learned that Liat and her husband were kidnapped, he immediately called me on the morning of October 8.

Within just a few hours, my chief of staff, Ayanti Grant, set up Liat and Aviv as missing person cases to the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem, immediately putting those agencies into action.

Over the following weeks, those agencies worked with the Atzili family closely to ensure that her release was a top priority for the administration.

Thanks to President Biden and Secretary Blinken's persistent diplomatic efforts, Liat was released 53 days later, alongside 104 other hostages taken during that weeklong cease-fire last November.

Unfortunately, hours after Liat's release, she was informed that her husband, Aviv, had been murdered by

Hamas on October 7. The relief and joy that she and her family experienced upon her release was abruptly replaced by grief and sadness.

Despite her traumatic loss, Liat is here today in Washington as a living, breathing example of what diplomacy and negotiation can achieve. She wants to make sure that every other hostage gets the same result that she did.

I thank Liat, her father, Yehuda Beinini, and her cousin, Jerry Fischer, for turning this horrific experience into a call for a just and lasting peace in Palestine and Israel.

EL SALVADOR CAUCUS

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to notify the House of the creation of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus for which I will serve as chairman and for which I have appointed the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ) to serve as the bipartisan co-chairman.

Congressman GONZALEZ has extensive relationships and insights drawn from his time in El Salvador and throughout Latin America, and undeniably, that will assist in leading the caucus.

Mr. Speaker, El Salvador's President, Nayib Bukele, has converted El Salvador from the murder capital of the world into a reliable and stable partner for peace and security for the United States of America.

The Congressional El Salvador Caucus will exist to nurture and advance the U.S.-El Salvador relationship, to encourage strong borders, strong culture, and the strong reforms that President Bukele has put into effect.

They have defeated the gangs. They have put prosperity on the march in El Salvador. Even the 70,000 people who are incarcerated in that country are not just seeing their lives wasted away.

President Bukele has instituted a zero-leisure policy where they are now restoring buildings and murals and actually rebuilding the country that so many of them have a hand in ravaging through gang warfare.

The purpose of this caucus will be to vindicate the choices that President Bukele has made that, indeed, strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship.

El Salvador's resurgence has not existed as a consequence of falling for the siren song of globalism. Instead, President Bukele believes that the way El Salvador can lead within Central America and, indeed, throughout the West, is by being the best version of itself; not being excessively reliant on some of these globalist institutions.

President Bukele has delivered instant justice to the satanic gangs and the endemic political corruption, but, in fact, no good deed goes unpunished.

Too often, our own government and even some Members of this Congress mount attack after attack on El Salvador and President Bukele, presum-

ably because the comeback that El Salvador is having is a living, breathing indictment of other failed ideologies.

Through the inspiration from El Salvador's astonishing transformation, the great American rejuvenation can become a reality as well, so that we can experience a triumphant return of safety and prosperity that we once inspired in others.

I invite my colleagues in the House and Senate to contact our office. We would love to have them as Members of the Congressional El Salvador Caucus as we strengthen the U.S.-El Salvador relationship and as we work to amplify some of the good decisions that are being made by President Bukele and his government. We hope that these good ideas have legs and can travel and can be copied and implemented for a more stable world.

A CONSTITUTIONAL CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve to know whether or not the President of the United States is fully capable of performing his duties. After his cringeworthy debate performance, numerous public appearances, and even small, private gatherings, many have concluded that he is not.

However, the President's doctor stated in a routine physical assessment almost 5 months ago in February that President Biden "... fully executes all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations."

Mr. Speaker, how can someone who needs pictures of what a podium and a stage are fully execute all of his responsibilities without any exemptions or accommodations?

That is the question House Republicans are asking by calling on the President's doctor to participate in a transcribed interview before the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability. Additionally, House Republicans are determined to receive the audiotapes from the President's interview with Special Counsel Robert Hur.

Yes, this is the same interview where Special Counsel Hur decided not to charge the President for his mishandling of classified documents because they were worried the President would "... present himself to a jury, as he did during our interview of him, as a sympathetic, well-meaning, elderly man with a poor memory."

Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker. Our country is in serious danger. Our enemies are watching the President let in millions of illegal immigrants at our southern border. They are watching as he fumbles his way through interviews where the questions are written by his staff beforehand.

This is a constitutional crisis. Each administration official, campaign staffer, congressional Democrat, or members of the press who have shielded the

President's condition from the American public are complicit in a coverup that is causing our country great pain.

Enough is enough. Mr. Speaker, it is time to restore accountability and respectability to this White House and the American people. It is the least the Tennesseans I serve back home deserve: A President of the United States capable of doing the job.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, God of now and all eternity, we approach You this day overwhelmed by everything that is far from holy, overtaken by concerns that even just this one day presents.

There is so much confusion and uncertainty. We ask that You would speak Your living and powerful word into our worrisome moments. Divide our troubled souls from our wearied spirits and discern and guide the actions and intentions of our hearts.

The darkness of our lives and the shadows of fear and frustration have descended in our workplaces, our politics, and our homes. Show us we have nothing to fear when we let Your light shine upon our lives, that You alone are our light and salvation.

There is so much that needs to be done, but we are paralyzed in our failures and incapacitated by our inadequacies. Remind us again that Your grace is sufficient for us; Your power is made perfect when we yield our whole selves, flaws and weaknesses, to Your will.

Among the many gods who will pursue or threaten to entrap us this day, there will be none like You. In these moments may we always choose You. May we demonstrate our praise for You, in all that we face today, for You alone are God.

In Your immortal and merciful 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 South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ONE CANNOT REWRITE HISTORY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is attempting to gaslight the American people by touting a 40 percent drop in daily illegal border crossings from the last couple of weeks.

He even implied that the so-called drop shows a more secure border than the one he inherited from President Trump. That is a gross misrepresentation.

No matter what the border numbers from June turn out to be, one month won't change the more than 9.6 million immigrant encounters under this President.

Let's look at the facts. May marked 39 straight months of more illegal immigrant encounters than even the highest month under the Trump administration. President Biden simply cannot rewrite history.

Each time the President boasts about a drop in encounters, he is acknowledging that he could have acted 3½ years ago but instead put our Nation at risk with his open-border policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

HONORING SERVICEMEMBERS

(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, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman MIKE MCCAUL responded the day after the bizarre Biden debate performance where Biden claimed no U.S. servicemembers died under his watch. Mr. MCCAUL correctly identified this claim as a lie as 13 were murdered in the Abbey Gate terrorist attack alone.

Sadly, this year, three Georgia Army reservists were killed on January 28 by Iran puppet Hezbollah at Tower 22 in Jordan. America will not forget Specialist Kennedy Sanders, Sergeant William Rivers, and Specialist Breonna Moffett.

The unintended reelection of Donald Trump by corrupt Judge Merchan is more evident every day. Polls for Trump overwhelmingly recognize judicial subversion with Merchan earning my invitation to be my guest for the Trump inauguration.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who have 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 border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as repeatedly warned by the FBI.

CONGRATULATING KATIE MOON

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, this summer, northeast Ohio native Katie Moon will compete in her second Olympic Games.

Four years ago, she won the gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in the pole vault. In her career, she has won golds at the Olympics, the World Athletics Championships, the Diamond League, and the NCAA Championships.

An alumna of Olmsted Falls High School in Cuyahoga County, she is a shining example of what our district has to offer. Her hard work and desire to give back to the community exemplify what it means to be an American.

From 2018 to 2023, Katie has won gold medals every year in various competitions. This summer, Katie, along with hundreds of other American athletes, will head to the Paris Olympic Games to represent our country and to once again bring home the gold.

I thank her for bringing inspiration to young people across the district and the country. I look forward to seeing her on the highest podium. Go Team USA.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST) at 4 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules