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No. 22

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 7, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

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

Hear us, O Lord, and answer us. Hear the prayers of the hostages in Israel and the deported children of Ukraine. Answer the cries of parents separated from their little ones and of families grieving the loss of their loved ones.

Hear our prayers, Lord. Listen to our cries for mercy for the countless men and women, wherever they find themselves, who call to You this day in distress. Answer them. For You, Lord, are a compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger and abounding in love and faithfulness.

Turn to Your people throughout the world whose relentless foes attack them from all sides. Condemn the ruthless people whose weapons are torment and injustice, whose only goals are pain and death.

Turn to all those who are broken by misery and overwhelmed by fear wherever they find themselves this day and have mercy on them. Show Your strength on behalf of those who call upon Your name, who cling with faith to the promise of Your salvation.

Give them a sign of Your goodness that their enemies may see it and be put to shame.

In You alone do they find help and hope and comfort. Hear us, O Lord, and answer us, for we pray in Your sovereign name.

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 Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOYLAN 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.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

### WATER CRISIS TORMENTING SOUTH TEXAS

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an urgent matter, the water crisis tormenting south Texas farmers and residents.

Our communities, bound by the Rio Grande, suffer as the Mexican Government delays the treaty-mandated water deliveries. This isn't merely an inconvenience. It is a threat to our

livelihood and is a national food security issue.

As planting season looms, our farmers face halved yields. Without immediate action, the ripple effects will be felt nationwide, meaning less produce on the shelves, soaring food prices, and heightened foreign dependence.

The House has already passed my bipartisan House resolution urging the Mexican Government to provide consistent, annual water deliveries as per our 1944 treaty. I ask the Biden administration to firmly advocate on behalf of our farmers and secure a reliable water future.

### ABORTION CARE IS HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last month marked 51 years since Roe v. Wade was decided, holding a women's fundamental right to privacy in their medical decisions. Women had the right to abortion because abortion care is healthcare.

Legal abortions have saved countless women's lives. Yet, after rightwing extremists spent 50 years pushing misinformation on abortion, our Supreme Court did their bidding and stripped away the rights and freedoms of women nationwide.

The far-right Court claimed the Dobbs decision would simply send the choice back to the States. Instead, it sent our Nation into chaos—doctors unsure if they can help their patients, assault survivors unsure if they can go to the police, and women crossing State lines to save their own lives.

Like many of you, I am exhausted by politicians who claim to support women, support life, and then work to strip away access to contraception, fertility care, and gynecological health.

I am exhausted by the fact that my daughters-in-law and granddaughters

☐ 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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have fewer rights than I did. I am exhausted that Roe is gone.

Yet, we must not tire. No matter how long the fight, whether in this Congress or the next, we must restore a woman's right to legal abortion.

#### PREPARE NOW FOR ATTACKS

(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, 2 days ago, I issued a heartfelt warning for all families in America. This is bipartisan in that the terrorists consider all Americans as targets.

I had been excusing the irresponsible open borders as recruiting millions of low-information voters to perpetuate Democrat elitist power. Sadly, well-respected Members of Congress, last weekend, clarified open borders is purposeful insanity, putting American families at risk everywhere of murderous attacks.

With terrorists and millions of illegal aliens, more 9/11 attacks will lead to growth of government for elitist power. The "ends justifies the means" concentrates power in their worship of government run by elitists.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that all American families, having full gas tanks, should prepare now with an attack rally point when communications are cut. Families should have a pre-chosen refuge of safety to face the terrorists that are facing our country.

Most at risk of mass murder and starvation are the homebound and disabled elderly. There should be plans for their recovery.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who have protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear that there will be more 9/11 attacks across America, as the FBI has indicated.

#### RECOGNIZING MICHELLE O'NEILL'S ELECTION AS FIRST MINISTER OF NORTHERN IRELAND

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Michelle O'Neill on her election to serve as First Minister of Northern Ireland, the first Irish nationalist leader in history to hold the seat, and also for the tone she set by pledging to be a leader for all the people of Northern Ireland.

After 2 years of delays and two successive elections in which the people made their voices heard, parties will once again sit in government and resume the difficult work of legislating.

The democratic institutions established by the Good Friday Agreement

have been critical in sustaining peace and prosperity on the island of Ireland. As a guarantor of that agreement, the United States has the indispensable role of continuing to uphold these principles of self-government, ensuring that progress made over the last years will continue into the future.

I have no doubt that the people of Ireland should be proud of these institutions, and I look forward to the realization of renewed stability with the return of a power-sharing government.

#### CELEBRATING 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVO'S INSURANCE

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 85th anniversary of Calvo's Insurance, a company that has been a pillar of support for thousands in my island community.

In 1938, Eduardo T. Calvo began selling fire and typhoon insurance out of his home. What began as a small part-time job has grown into the largest and oldest insurance provider on Guam.

This success is a true testament to Calvo's Insurance's unwavering commitment to serving the people of Guam. Their ability to provide comprehensive and affordable insurance has significantly benefited our community, and their growth over the decades has infused Guam's economy while creating new jobs.

As they celebrate this momentous occasion, I want to wish Calvo's Insurance continued success and prosperity in the years to come. May they continue to serve as a shining example of excellence in the insurance industry.

#### RECOGNIZING AMIRAM COOPER

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

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to share the story of Amiram Cooper.

Amiram is 85, a husband, a father, a grandfather of nine, a composer, and a poet. His love for the arts and writing inspires everyone around him.

On October 7, he was 1 of more than 240 men, women, children, and elderly who were kidnapped by Hamas.

Amiram was one of the founders of Kibbutz Nir Oz, one of the sites of this horrible attack. This tight-knit community was left devastated by the brutality of that day.

Amiram and 135 others are still held captive in Gaza today. Their families continue to live a nightmare—devastated, not knowing what conditions their loved ones are in. It has been 123 days.

We must demand that medical and aid organizations be able to treat the hostages and negotiate on their behalf.

We must continue to do everything in our power to keep these hostages

and their families in our hearts and to keep telling their stories.

We must bring every single hostage home and end this violence.

#### RECOGNIZING 114TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the 114th anniversary of the Boys Scouts of America, the Nation's foremost youth program of character development and values-based leadership training.

On February 8, 1910, Chicago businessman William D. Boyce, who grew up in western Pennsylvania, incorporated the Boy Scouts of America. It later went on to be chartered by the U.S. Congress.

Since then, millions of young men and women have joined the Scouts and learned the values of patriotism, courage, and self-reliance.

I have been involved in Scouting for more than 50 years, including serving as a Scoutmaster and achieving the rank of Eagle Scout in 1977. Scouting helped me discover my life purpose: helping others.

I take the lessons learned throughout my own Scouting career and apply them in every aspect of my life today, including in my job as a U.S. Congressman.

As co-chair of the Congressional Scouting Caucus, I am proud to introduce a resolution, alongside my fellow Eagle Scout from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP), designating tomorrow, February 8, as Boy Scouts of America Day, to honor the tireless service of Scout volunteers and participants in our communities.

In challenging times like now, I think we could all learn a lesson from the Scout slogan: "Do a Good Turn Daily."

#### CONDEMNING BIDEN'S ENERGY POLICIES

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn Biden's disastrous energy policies that have hurt consumers with skyrocketing costs and jeopardized national security.

On day one, he launched a war on American energy by killing the Keystone pipeline. Most recently, he announced a pause on all pending natural gas permits and that he would no longer hold court-ordered offshore gas lease sales. These shortsighted decisions embolden adversaries in their aggression toward American allies who rely on U.S. energy.

Mr. Speaker, we must support commonsense measures, like those contained in the Lower Energy Costs Act, to restore American energy dominance,