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No. 148

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. LESKO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 23, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE LESKO 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 1:50 p.m.

FAILED SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, for the past 4 years, American communities have been forced to live with failed, soft-on-crime policies that have sought to free violent criminals and defund our law enforcement.

In California, a recent study showed that 70 percent of individuals who received zero-dollar bail were subsequently rearrested. A study focused on

Chicago identified that 50 percent of offenders who were released committed another violent crime.

Now isn't the time to put dangerous criminals back on the street. It is time to pass legislation that stops violent criminals and instead backs the men and women in blue. We rely on our police officers to keep us safe, and we cannot allow far-left policies from prosecutors continue to allow criminals to go free.

It is time to pass the Keeping Violent Offenders Off Our Streets Act and help to put a stop to the unaccountable bail systems that have allowed these violent criminals to roam the streets of America.

PEACE THROUGH STRENGTH

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, since President Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS first took office, they have allowed the Chinese Communist Party to continue their unlawful abuses of human rights and international standards. These failures jeopardize our security and put every American at risk.

When a Chinese spy balloon floated across the American heartland, taking photos of our military installations, our critical infrastructure, and our farmland, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS did nothing.

It is time to take direct action and enforce strict sanctions on the members of the CCP that have taken these aggressive actions against America and against our allies.

It was President Ronald Reagan who said that "weakness only invites aggression," and the Chinese Communist Party accepted that invitation. It is clear from the past 4 years that the Biden-HARRIS administration has failed in its duty to stop the aggression of the Chinese Communist Party.

It is time for a President who believes in peace through strength. It is time to stand up against the Chinese Communist Party and protect Amer-

ican security, both here at home and abroad.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH D. LESKO

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my son Joseph D. Lesko.

Joey is my oldest son. I can't believe he is 30 years old already. It seems like it wasn't that long ago when Joey was born.

I have a great photo of my husband changing Joey's diaper in the hospital after he was born. My husband was so happy to have his first son. After a number of diaper changes, I don't think he had that smile on his face anymore.

Then came years of birthday parties, parties with families and friends, swimming, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, camping, and baseball. We have had a lot of fun throughout the years.

I am proud of my son Joey. He is a great son. He is successful in his job in IT. He bought a really nice home, and it is close to where I live, which I obviously love.

He is getting married in October of this year. I am so thankful that Joey is in my life. As I end my term in Congress, I am so happy to recognize him.

May God continue to bless him for years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE UPCOMING WEDDING OF JOSEPH LESKO AND CHERIE AREL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my son Joseph Lesko, also known as Joey, and his fiancée, Cherie Arel, on their upcoming wedding.

After dating for 5 years, Joey and Cherie are getting married on October 26 of this year, 2024, in my hometown, Peoria, Arizona.

□ 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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My husband, Joe, and I, wish them as much happiness as we have had in our marriage of over 30 years.

I congratulate Joey and Cherie. May God continue to bless you now and forevermore.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARICOPA COUNTY
ATTORNEY RACHEL MITCHELL

Mrs. LESKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maricopa County Attorney Rachel Mitchell for her impact on our State and Nation throughout her accomplished 30-year legal career.

A native of Arizona, Rachel has been a leader for decades, including leading teams of prosecutors at the Sex Crimes Bureau, where she successfully prosecuted hundreds of complex cases involving crimes against children, adults, and sex trafficking.

As a nationally recognized voice on sexual assault and child abuse prosecution, Rachel's impact has not only been in the cases she has prosecuted, but the way she has changed the way prosecuting these cases is done, including advocating for reforms to ensure victims are more comfortable in the courtroom.

Rachel Mitchell's impact is felt in my community of Maricopa County, across Arizona, and beyond. I am thankful for her commitment to both protecting families and the integrity of our legal system.

IN MEMORY OF DAVID LEE
IRELAND

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 to recognize the life of Mr. David Lee Ireland.

David died on September 17 following a long battle with cancer. He spent his professional life protecting and serving the people of Iowa as a police officer in the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

When he was not working, he was collecting antique Model T memorabilia or enjoying the outdoors with his wife, canoeing on the Mississippi River.

David was also a lifelong member of the Boy Scouts, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest rank in the Boy Scouts, and eventually seeing both of his sons achieve the same rank.

He later served as Scoutmaster for Troop 30 in Montrose, Iowa, where he proudly taught these young boys essential life values, such as hard work, love of the outdoors, self-reliance, and commitment.

He is survived by his wife, Rebecca, and his two sons, Matthew and Shawn.

Let us not despair in the loss of this great man, but, rather, praise God for sending David here to make the world a better place.

RECKLESS POLICIES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to condemn the Biden-HARRIS administration border crisis that

has plagued our Nation for over 3 years.

Under the failed leadership of President Biden and his border czar KAMALA HARRIS, we have witnessed the worst border crisis in American history, with over 10 million illegal immigrants having crossed our border, while nearly 300,000 unaccompanied children are left unaccounted for and at risk of trafficking and exploitation.

The horror doesn't stop there. Fentanyl, the poison that has claimed over 200,000 American lives, flows unchecked across our border, with over 2,000 pounds seized each month.

This administration's negligence has created a perfect storm for crime, with a shocking 52,058 arrests of illegal immigrants with criminal backgrounds, a staggering 130 percent increase since President Trump was in office.

Biden and HARRIS have failed us. Their reckless policies are jeopardizing our children and communities. It is time for a return to a strong border security, time to hold them accountable and assure that every child is safe, every community is secure, and every American life matters.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EIGHTH ANNUAL
NATIONAL CLEAN ENERGY WEEK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the eighth annual National Clean Energy Week.

As chair of the Conservative Climate Caucus and a Representative of Iowa, where 59 percent of our net energy generation comes from wind turbines, I am proud to highlight our State's leadership in harnessing renewable energy, and wind isn't the only type of renewable energy we have.

We show how emissions can responsibly be reduced without sacrificing reliable energy production by tapping into our abundant resources, like wind, ethanol, biodiesel, manure, and hydro. Investing in innovation, we have strengthened our energy independence, created good-paying jobs, and kept energy costs low for families and businesses alike.

This is what responsible, forward-thinking energy policy looks like, driven by innovation, not government mandates.

National Clean Energy Week reminds us that we can secure a cleaner, healthier planet through practical, market-driven solutions that work for our economy, not against us.

We must continue to support innovation that grows our economy, meets our energy needs, keeps our energy costs down, and respects the hard-working people that depend on affordable, reliable energy.

Cleaner energy, more innovation, and a stronger economy is the path forward.

AMERICANS DESERVE BETTER THAN FAILED
POLICIES

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the disastrous impact KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden have had on our economy.

Inflation has risen as high as 20.2 percent. Eggs are up 46.8 percent. Gas is up

49.9 percent. Bread is up 24.3 percent. Sugar is up 31.4 percent. The list goes on and on.

In just the past year, 1.2 million U.S.-born citizens lost their jobs to illegal aliens crossing our wide-open southern border. Everyday essentials, from food to fuel, have seen outrageous price hikes.

Families in Iowa are paying over \$13,000 more annually just to get by. Real wages have plummeted. Interest rates are at a 23-year high. Credit card debt has now surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time, and our national debt has crossed \$35 trillion.

Instead of finding practical solutions, this administration thinks the solution is to print more money and to spend more by the government. The American people deserve better than KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden's failed policies.

□ 1215

RECOGNIZING 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HAMAS
TERRORIST ATTACK ON ISRAEL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming 1-year anniversary of the heinous Hamas terrorist attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

On that fateful day, Hamas terrorists launched inhumane and barbaric attacks on Israeli civilians by land, air, and sea. The world watched in horror as these terrorists slaughtered and burned innocent Israeli families in their homes; abducted and killed Americans; murdered over 200 young people enjoying a music festival; kidnapped innocent people, including Holocaust survivors, women, and children; and wounded thousands.

It was, in fact, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. The trauma continues to this day as Hamas continues to hold hostages, including American citizens.

In August, I joined Senator JONI ERNST on a congressional trip to meet with heads of state to advocate for the release of all hostages in Hamas' captivity.

Hamas' recent murders of six hostages, including American citizen Hersh Goldberg-Polin, is yet another tragedy that underscores the brutality of this terrorist organization.

We will continue to forcefully push for the release of all hostages.

At home, we have seen anti-Semitism rear its ugly head over the past year, especially on college campuses. This is unacceptable in America. In Congress, we will continue to fight this heinous scourge of anti-Semitism.

Mr. Speaker, on this upcoming October 7 anniversary, the United States must ensure that Israelis have the tools they need to defend their citizens, and I will continue to urge Members of Congress to stand shoulder to shoulder with the Jewish people and the State of Israel during their time of need.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair