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## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

### PENN STATE WRESTLERS ENGAGING IN THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, throughout American history, leaders of various faiths have impactfully tended the needs of believers while simultaneously participating in political movements relating to significant issues, such as equality, the right to vote, and the sanctity of human life.

The roles of leader and political organizer never have been mutually exclusive.

I was reminded of this duality in roles, by choice of the individual, during a recent conversation with a constituent. In short, the constituent informed me that the onstage appearance of current and former Penn State wrestlers at President Trump's rally at Penn State was drawing unneeded criticism. Just as religious leaders can be both devoted advocates of their ministry and passionate champions of their causes, the Penn State wrestlers are

most certainly entitled by our Constitution to be both representatives of their athletic program and citizens who are actively engaged in the electoral process.

The Nittany Lion wrestling program is renowned, not only for producing national championship teams, but for developing wrestlers who have dominated their sport on the collegiate level and then represented our country in international competitions as recently as the Olympic Games in Paris this past summer.

Our Nation prides itself on the inclusive nature of our political process. It is wrong to advocate for engaged citizenry on one hand while selectively choosing citizens who can participate and who cannot on the other hand.

According to recent reports, voter turnouts among people ages 18–29 was a mere 42 percent overall in the most recent Presidential election. That figure, that 42 percent, is at least 10 percent lower than the turnout of the same group 4 years prior in the 2020 Presidential election.

Mindful of that decline, the Penn State wrestlers, particularly those who are still pursuing their degrees, should be applauded for embracing one of our most cherished freedoms: the right to vote.

Competing as a wrestler does not preclude an individual from expressing political viewpoints, despite criticism that might or might not be of a partisan nature.

As a proud Penn State alumnus, I witnessed firsthand the wrestlers exercising their First Amendment right to free speech and encouraging all Americans to cast their ballot. Our great Nation needs the wisdom, enthusiasm, and talents of people across generations to overcome the challenges that were the focus of our most recent election. It is fair to say that the generation with the most at stake is the youngest generation. It is their leader-

ship that should be encouraged. It is their perspective that must be considered. It is their voice that must be heard.

For the benefit and for the enrichment of all Americans, I congratulate these young wrestlers for exercising their constitutional rights, and I personally thank them for their commitment to engaging in our political process.

### THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the past 4 years, the Biden-Harris administration has failed the American people.

Under President Biden's watch, our adversaries have been emboldened, inflation has skyrocketed, and our borders have been left unsecured.

With these crises, we have seen Americans be put in danger. We recognize that the Biden-Harris administration had no answers. They had no solutions on how to keep us safe, and now the American people have spoken.

When voters were asked if they were better off now compared to 4 years ago, they resoundingly said no. That is why in January, President Donald J. Trump will return to the Oval Office.

Under President Trump's leadership, we will, once again, lower energy prices by utilizing the energy sources that are under the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania.

Under President Trump's leadership, we will secure our southern border and put a stop to the flow of deadly drugs like fentanyl that have taken far too many American lives.

Under President Donald J. Trump, our Nation will, once again, return to a policy of peace through strength that has helped to keep our Nation safe and the American people free.

□ 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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# HONORING THE DILIGENT SERVICE OF KEVIN GRANEY, PRESIDENT OF GENERAL DYNAMICS ELECTRIC BOAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the diligent and honorable service of the president of General Dynamics Electric Boat, Mr. Kevin Graney of Stonington, Connecticut.

On December 1, in a couple weeks, Kevin is slated to retire from his eventful and impactful 5-year term as the shipyard lead for the United States Navy's submarine force, and it is more than fitting that this Chamber take a moment to recognize his extraordinary service to our Nation.

A native of Cheektowaga, New York, Kevin's career spans nearly 40 years of service to the Navy's shipbuilding enterprise. His intelligence, patriotism, and leadership qualities stood out at an early age, foreshadowing a promising career as a naval officer.

Upon graduating high school, he attended State University of New York Maritime College, earning a bachelor's degree in marine engineering and nuclear science, which would serve him well as a submariner and instructor at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Unit in Ballston Spa, New York.

Following a distinguished career at sea, Kevin began his shipbuilding career at General Dynamics Electric Boat in 1995 as a senior engineer working on critical power components for the *Virginia*-class submarine program.

Following his assignment at Electric Boat, he moved to Newport News Shipbuilding in Virginia to design the reactor plant for the next-generation aircraft carrier, the CVN-78 program. He then moved overseas and managed Electric Boat engineers to assist our allies in the U.K. as they built their British Astute-class nuclear submarine program. Eventually, he returned to Electric Boat and began his last term over the last 5 years in 2019 as CEO of the shipyard.

During his time, the 120-year-old EB shipyard experienced a massive generational transformation with new and improved infrastructure, increased hiring, and new operations to dramatically improve performance and efficiency in the submarine industrial base.

In 2023, Electric Boat hired nearly 5,400 new workers, the biggest number in its history, even surpassing its growth in World War II and the Cold War. The total workforce today now exceeds 23,000, and they are still hiring today.

If that was not challenging enough, 5 months into Kevin's ascension to president, the shipyard was confronted with the global COVID pandemic. It is hard to visualize how difficult it is to manage an airborne pathogen in a shipyard, particularly a submarine shipyard where, again, the quarters are so tight.

Nonetheless, they kept the shipyard open. They did not close for a single day during the pandemic, and that is because Kevin Graney overcame this crisis and skillfully managed operations to continue as a critical industry in our Nation's security.

After performance across the shipyard and the nationwide industrial base was stabilized, it was then faced with increased rates of retirement of senior workers and a corresponding reduction in the supervisory trade workforce.

Since then, Kevin has spearheaded recovery efforts that have transformed the shipyard in just a short time. A few months ago, he signed a 5-year Metal Trades collective bargaining agreement with the Metal Trades Council, which represents machinists, electricians, carpenters, teamsters, and boilermakers that increased their pay by 25 percent, retaining their pension and health benefits at the same time.

Next to me is the USS *Iowa*, the 24th *Virginia*-class submarine, which was delivered to the Navy a couple of weeks ago. As I stand here today, it is undergoing sea trials and will be commissioned to the U.S. Navy in a few months or so.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking member and chair of the House Armed Services' Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee and the Congressman representing EB's facility in Groton, Connecticut, I have had a front-row seat to Kevin's tenure. It was not an easy time.

Through it all, though, he maintained a steady level of confidence from his peers and overcame adversities that were not anticipated at the start of his tenure.

I haven't even talked about the AUKUS security agreement, which last December this Congress voted to sell three *Virginia*-class nuclear-powered submarines to our great ally, Australia, the first time in history our country has ever made that commitment.

He has built the foundation, and it will be incredibly difficult to replace him, but we welcome the next president of Electric Boat, Mark Rayha, who I am sure will continue in Kevin's steps.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Kevin as he enters this new era of retirement with his wife, Cheryl, and his daughter, Katherine. I ask that my colleagues in the House, and particularly those who serve on the House Armed Services Committee along with me, join me in recognizing his life of service to the Navy and the United States by submitting his legacy into the permanence of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

## THE TRUMP MANDATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the people spoke and Donald

Trump and J.D. VANCE achieved the most historic political comeback in American history, while also naming extraordinary patriots to his cabinet: ELISE STEFANIK as U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Tom Homan as the border czar, MARCO RUBIO as Secretary of State, Kristi Noem as Homeland Security Secretary, MIKE WALTZ as National Security Advisor, LEE ZELDIN as Environmental Protection Agency Administrator, Governor Mike Huckabee as U.S. Ambassador to Jerusalem, and the extraordinary Susie Wiles as Chief of Staff, working with the deputy chief of staff for policy, Stephen Miller.

The Trump mandate is a recognition of his policy achievements, which I submitted to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, January 21, 2021, pages E60-E62, and achievements to the First Lady, Melania Trump, on January 21, 2021, pages E52-E53.

As chairman of the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia Subcommittee and chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I especially appreciate Donald Trump, who will achieve peace through strength.

Without equivocation, he stood with Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, clearly stating Iran must not secure a nuclear weapon, threatening our Arab allies from Kuwait to UAE to Bahrain, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, along with NATO member Türkiye.

Trump stood with Ukraine against war criminal Putin, supplying Volodymyr Zelenskyy Javelin missiles, placing troops in Poland, and stopping the Nord Stream 2 pipeline, which financed Putin's murderous atrocities.

Trump stood with Taiwan, supplying defensive weapons to deter the Chinese Communist Party from an invasion threatening the Korean and Japanese shipping lanes, along with the shipping capabilities of our great ally, India.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

## RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 13 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. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) at 2 p.m.