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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Pastor Timothy McLaurin, First Missionary Baptist Church, Frederick, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Father, I thank You for these elected officials whom You have allowed to serve in their current capacities. As they gather to serve, I pray, Lord, that You would be in the midst.

Be active in the debates and discussions that shall be a part of their decisionmaking process. Grant these Members wisdom to make decisions that will promote and provide for the welfare of all.

Be active in causing this collection of individuals, with diverse backgrounds and ideologies, to embody a spirit of partnership and solidarity that creates an atmosphere of purposeful productivity that produces a period of prosperity for all.

Be active in this group to help them promote peace and foster unity in this season that is filled with anxiety and that finds our Nation divided. Cause these public servants to be united in their passions, in their pursuits, and in Your providential purposes.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman 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 PASTOR TIMOTHY McLAURIN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Pastor Timothy McLaurin.

As I stand on the floor of the U.S. House, I realize that our Nation faces a troubling path ahead, but we all must recognize a higher purpose: to leave a better world for our children and our grandchildren.

We must all realize our role as public servants: to serve those in need, those suffering from addiction and mental health issues, and our systemically racist criminal justice system.

A son of Baltimore, Pastor McLaurin answered the call to serve his community over two decades ago. He has empowered his congregants with the lessons of God, the compassion of Jesus, and the guidance of profound faith.

Pastor McLaurin and his wonderful wife, Kimberly, and their three beautiful daughters have stood as pillars of the community through easy days and tough times.

Mr. Speaker, I thank him and his family for being here with me today and for sharing his wisdom.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER AS NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER MONTH

(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, I rise to recognize November as National Family Caregiver Month.

Every day, more than 48 million family caregivers provide essential care to loved ones who are aging, ill, or living with a disability.

As a former healthcare professional, I have seen these caregivers often go above and beyond to support their families, sacrificing their own time, energy, and well-being to ensure that those that they care for receive the support and the love that they need.

Family caregivers are often the unsung heroes of our communities. Many

□ 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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balance caregiving with full-time jobs, raising children, and managing their own health.

They deserve our support and recognition, which is why I am proud to support legislation like the Lowering Costs for Caregivers Act to help ensure these caregivers have the financial resources to continue providing care for their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, let this month be a reminder of our shared responsibility to support these caregivers who give so much to others. By showing our appreciation and lending a hand where we can, we can honor the work that they do every day.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MARIE FLICKINGER

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Marie Flickinger, a remarkable woman who passed away this week after leading a life of excellence.

A journalist and publisher by trade, Marie is perhaps best known for her work in her newspaper, the *Leader*, where she exposed the impact of toxic waste from a Pasadena plant at the Brio Superfund site, earning her the title of South Belt's own Erin Brockovich.

Fighting for the people didn't stop in the pages of the *Leader*. She also became the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees. Marie served for three decades, transforming the college into a place where students felt supported and where education was accessible to all.

Marie led a life of honesty, integrity, and service, and despite her humble demeanor, she left an enormous legacy.

Mr. Speaker, our hearts go out to the entire Flickinger family. May she rest in peace.

HONORING THE LIFE OF A LONG-TIME PILLAR OF SOUTHEAST HOUSTON, MARIE FLICKINGER

(Mr. BABIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a longtime pillar of the southeast Houston community, Marie Flickinger, who passed away on November 11, 2024.

After becoming the first woman elected to the San Jacinto College District Board of Trustees in 1995, Marie served as chair from 2007 to 2013 and again from 2017 until her retirement on November 4, 2024.

She spent these nearly 30 years devoted to ensuring the institution's success, achieving numerous awards along the way. Many have referred to Marie as the honorary mayor of the South Belt, due to her involvement in practically every aspect of the community,

an extensive list that includes the founding of the South Belt-Ellington Chamber of Commerce, the local newspaper, and Saint Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church as well as the organization of countless community events. She was a friend, and a friend of mine.

As a cofounder and publisher of the South Belt-Ellington *Leader*, Marie became known for her work shedding light on the impact of the Brio Superfund site in the 1980s, which eventually led to its remediation.

Marie also delved into the political arena, serving on two mayoral transition committees for the great city of Houston, Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I have no doubt that Marie's legacy will be long remembered and my prayers are with her family, her San Jacinto College family, and the South Belt community during this difficult time.

49 MILLION AMERICANS TURN TO FOOD BANKS FOR ASSISTANCE

(Mr. CORREA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the work done by our food banks, food pantries, and other community-based organizations in Orange County and across the country.

In recent years, almost 49 million Americans have turned to food banks for assistance. Back home in Orange County, over 300,000 of our neighbors don't know where their next meal is going to come from, and over 20 percent are children.

Every day during the holiday season, I joined with my community to make sure that these individuals have a meal.

Today, I am proud to be leading a bipartisan resolution with over 50 of our Members acknowledging the essential work these groups do throughout our great country. They deserve the support of Congress, and I call on Members of this Congress to join us in cosponsoring this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the food banks and pantries and other community-based organizations across the country for their good work. They are appreciated.

THE UNITED STATES' EXISTENTIAL THREAT REPRESENTED BY \$36 TRILLION IN NATIONAL DEBT

(Mr. GOOD of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I must bring attention, once again, to our Nation's existential threat represented by \$36 trillion in national debt and another \$2 trillion deficit this year.

Yet in this very Chamber just a couple of days ago, every Democrat joined two-thirds of Republicans in adding \$200 billion in new mandatory spending.

So is our debt and our spending just campaign talking points?

Is it just a slogan, or does it really matter?

Do we really care about it?

I will commend Senator RAND PAUL from Kentucky who just yesterday had the courage to stand alone and block emergency spending because he said it needs to be paid for. What a concept, that we would pay for the new spending on top of the layers and layers of debt that is causing so much inflation, higher interest rates, and threatening the financial future of our kids and our grandkids.

Why not cut the expansion of the IRS?

Why not cut a trillion dollars in climate credits?

Why not cut the tens of billions of dollars of COVID funds that are still not covered for?

Why not cut the spending for the U.N. or UNRWA or the WHO?

Mr. Speaker, there is so much low-hanging fruit. I am so thankful that we will have Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy looking at that in the new administration.

CONGRATULATING DR. BRITTNEY F. MOBLEY NAMED THE 2024 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL OF GEORGIA

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Brittney F. Mobley, who was named the 2024 National Distinguished Principal of Georgia.

This award was administered by the National Association of Elementary School Principals' National Distinguished Principals program, an annual award that honors the exemplary leadership of principals across each State.

In 2020, while educators across the country were facing challenges with remote teaching due to the pandemic, Ms. Mobley was working to open the county's newest elementary school, Frances Meeks Elementary School. Frances Meeks is in Richmond Hill, Georgia, and serves its students with unique learning experiences, such as the elementary agriculture program that provides students with hands-on learning experiences pertaining to agriculture and creates longstanding community partnerships.

Thanks to Dr. Mobley, the school boasts a 95 percent curriculum mastery rate and a growing number of students qualifying for its gifted programs.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Mobley on this award, and we greatly appreciate the work she has dedicated to the students of Georgia's First Congressional District.