

we will continue to build a future where every American, regardless of their background, can achieve the American Dream.

#### AMERICA HAS SPOKEN

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, America has spoken. Our country has told us clearly: It is time to go in a new direction. It is morning in America. As the sun rises, it brings hope, optimism, and opportunity, but it also brings the realization that we are in a mess.

President-elect Trump appointed Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy to lead the Department of Government Efficiency. Their goal is to dismantle the out-of-control bureaucracy, cut wasteful programs, and restructure Federal agencies.

Taking on crazy town is no easy task. Elon and Vivek will need partners in Congress to accomplish many of the cuts that are necessary to rein in the unelected bureaucrats who have enjoyed unchecked power for far too long.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I have created the Delivering Outstanding Government Efficiency Caucus. The DOGE Caucus will work with President Trump, Elon, and Vivek to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse. Together, we will take bold steps to end Washington's reckless spending addiction.

I invite my colleagues to join us in this effort. Together, we will strengthen the America First agenda. Let's go get 'em.

□ 1045

#### CONGRATULATING STANTON COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL ON NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON AWARD

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows that Stanton College Preparatory School in Jacksonville, Florida, is home of the Blue Devils, but I just heard some news that blew me away. Stanton is now home to a National Blue Ribbon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Stanton for earning a brand-new blue ribbon from the Department of Education. From over 100,000 eligible schools, Stanton was one of the 356 nationwide to be given the very prestigious National Blue Ribbon Award.

As Duval County's first magnet school, Stanton specializes in getting the very best out of students and launching them to new heights, but they don't just excel in the classroom. To get the National Blue Ribbon Award, Stanton also proved its excellence in extracurricular activities and athletics.

Stanton is known for fostering an extremely positive and supportive environment to ensure that students succeed in every arena.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating everyone at Stanton College Preparatory

School for this monumental achievement. The Blue Devils will wear those blue ribbons proudly.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

On this day, Lord, hear our voices as we speak from the depths of our hearts our innermost concerns and our deepest fears. Listen to our intent as we speak with our actions our profound desire to get things done and to make things better in our communities and in this country.

God, You are not pleased with wickedness. Forgive us our grievous injury, both unintentional and calculated, to our colleagues and those closest to us. The arrogant cannot stand in Your presence. Help us in the face of all that feeds our pride to humble ourselves before You.

If we have done wrong, we pray Your mercy. For the lies we have told and lived, we pray Your reconciliation. For the deceit we slip into so easily, we pray Your truth will redeem us.

O God, our king and Savior, listen to our words, both spoken and unspoken, and consider our contrite hearts as we lay our requests before You and wait expectantly for You to answer.

In Your 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 Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGOVERN 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.

#### CONGRATULATING ENERGY SECRETARY CHRIS WRIGHT

(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, American families have suffered under disastrous Biden-Harris energy policies, including regulatory attacks, destroying jobs, and increasing prices. Biden-Harris halted sales for liquefied natural gas, financing war criminal Putin, and the murderous Iranian regime, hurting allies purchasing American energy.

Since Biden, Americans have lost over \$4,400 in higher energy costs. Gas prices reached a historic high of over \$5 a gallon and reduced the American strategic stockpile to a 40-year low. House Republicans support energy independence this week with the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act to increase geothermal leases.

President Donald Trump has nominated Chris Wright as Secretary of Energy, and as a former Reagan Energy Department alumnus myself representing the Savannah River Site, I know his background will lead to the development of small modular nuclear reactors.

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

#### RECOGNIZING JUNIPER HELPS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Juniper Helps, a nonprofit organization in Worcester, Massachusetts, doing remarkable work to improve food security among Worcester public school students.

Led by Julie McDonald, Juniper Helps runs food pantries in six public schools in my hometown of Worcester, offering snacks and easy-to-make meals for students who need them the most.

Many of these young people face the heartbreaking reality of unstable housing. For them, a nutritious meal isn't just food, it is a source of stability and hope.

Julie saw this critical need in our community and has rallied a powerful coalition of local businesses, nonprofits, and government agencies to make sure local students have nutritious meals and snacks when school is out of session.

Food is love, Mr. Speaker, and Juniper Helps is reminding us all of our responsibility to ensure that every child has continued access to nutritious food. Their work is inspiring and a critical safety net for kids as we work to end hunger now for all.

# SUSTAINABLE TOURISM IN THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate two of the Virgin Islands' students on their accomplishments in the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Essay Contest, which gives youths throughout the Caribbean the opportunity to advance their scholastic endeavors.

I am immensely proud of these students for their unique perspective on how to promote sustainable cruise-line tourism.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Rachel Guzman Ramirez on her first place in the senior division, and Mr. Tyler Ian Antonio Chung for his second place in the junior division.

One of the Virgin Islands' economic mainstays is tourism, which is heavily impacted by the cruise ship industry. In the 2023-2024 season, cruise tourism contributed more than \$258 million to the Virgin Islands' economy.

It is imperative that we in Congress continue to support sustainable tourism that accounts for climate change, community investment, and environmentally friendly practices so that the Virgin Islands can continue to be America's paradise, and we can compete with other Caribbean islands.

## PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1449, COMMITTING LEASES FOR ENERGY ACCESS NOW ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 9495, STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN HOSTAGES ACT

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1576 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1576

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1449) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to increase the frequency of lease sales, to require replacement sales, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the re-

port, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 9495) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to postpone tax deadlines and reimburse paid late fees for United States nationals who are unlawfully or wrongfully detained or held hostage abroad, to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 9495 and H.R. 1449.

The rule provides for H.R. 1449 to be considered under a structured rule. It provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and by the ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources, or their designees.

The rule further provides for H.R. 9495 to be considered under a closed rule, providing for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the

chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means, or their designees.

The rule provides for a motion to recommit for each bill.

Mr. Speaker, we have had our eyes opened to a lot in the wake of last year's horrifying October 7 attack in Israel. We have been reminded of how much anti-Semitism still somehow exists in our own country. As we saw American citizens taken hostage by Hamas, we were also sadly reminded of the many Americans who have been taken hostage or illegally detained across the world.

H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act is twofold.

First, it directs the IRS to disregard the time during which a person being held hostage for purposes of when that person filed their tax returns, paid income taxes, or filed a claim. This will also be true for their spouses.

This is a small thing, given the circumstances they have endured, but an obvious one. It is so obvious that it sounds silly to say it out loud that someone should not have to worry about missing the deadline to file their taxes because they were being held hostage.

This bill also addresses abuses within the nonprofit sector that support terrorism by prohibiting these organizations from maintaining their tax-exempt status if they are found to have provided material support or resources to a terrorist or terrorist-supporting organization.

After October 7 and the anti-Semitism that spread rapidly across campuses, the House Ways and Means Committee began investigating tax-exempt organizations to make sure they were not making contributions that would benefit terrorists.

It seems fairly obvious that if your organization is supporting terrorist activity in any way, shape, or form, you should at a minimum lose your tax-exempt status.

This bill is so sensible it should have been able to pass under suspension, and yet, somehow the Democrats still did not understand the wish of the American people. Americans want to protect their citizens and not support terrorism. It is that simple. I cannot understand how many of my colleagues voted against this bill last week, but I will be proud to vote for it again.

This rule also provides for consideration of H.R. 1449, the Committing Leases for Energy Access Now Act, or the CLEAN Act, which will provide certainty for U.S. geothermal energy projects.

Right now, the Department of the Interior is required to have a competitive lease sale every 2 years. However, some States have not had a lease sale for much longer than that. Under this legislation, the Secretary of the Interior must hold these sales annually and must respond to the permit applications within 30 days of receipt to let