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No. 178

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 3, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG 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.

### DANGERS OF COMMUNISM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, right now, more than 500 elementary, middle, and high schools across the U.S. contain Confucius classrooms. These programs, which have been introduced slowly over a number of years, share CCP propaganda and provide cover to communist regimes.

At a time when Christians and Uyghurs are being persecuted in China,

we cannot allow curriculums written in support of the Chinese Communist Party to be taught in the American classrooms.

To address this issue, it is time to pass the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, which would direct the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to provide civic education curriculum and materials for middle and high school students about the true dangers of communism.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation. We cannot afford to allow this growing influence to continue in American classrooms.

### REMEMBERING MONSIGNOR RAYMOND BALTA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Monsignor Raymond Balta who passed away this weekend at the age of 80.

For the past 28 years, Monsignor Balta has served as the pastor of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Johnstown where he led services, he prayed with his congregation, and he comforted those who were sick.

During his time at St. Mary's, Monsignor Balta helped to grow and refurbish the parish, ensuring that congregants would be able to continue worshipping there for decades to come.

At his retirement this past summer, Monsignor Balta was asked about his activities outside of his religious duties. In response, he said that the church does not exist in a vacuum and that the church is an integral part of the community.

This afternoon, please join me and all those in Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District in praying for the members of St. Mary Byzantine Catholic Church in Johnstown as they mourn the loss of their beloved Monsignor Raymond Balta.

### GREATER TRANSPARENCY FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, as Ameri-

cans celebrated Small Business Saturday by shopping small and working to support local businesses, those same businesses continued to struggle under oppressive Federal regulations.

Under President Biden, burdensome rules have dramatically hurt small businesses that are forced to spend more time and money to meet Federal requirements. This week, the House will vote on the Prove It Act, which would require greater transparency from agencies on regulatory decisions that affect small businesses and ensure that small businesses can petition the SBA to review the economic impact of new rules and regulations.

More than 61 million Americans are employed by small businesses, and any regulation that unfairly targets them is a danger to their families and the communities that rely on them every day.

It is time to pass this legislation and stand up to the Biden administration's failed policies that have hurt our local economies over the past 4 years.

### CONGRATULATING GEISTOWN'S CHIEF OF POLICE EDWARD PORADA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Geistown, Pennsylvania's new Chief of Police Edward Porada.

Chief Porada brings 27 years of experience to the borough where he will continue his career in law enforcement.

As a former canine officer, a former deputy sheriff, and a firefighter, Chief Porada has a deep understanding of public service, and the chief knows what it takes to serve and protect the people of Geistown.

His background in criminal investigations and public safety make him the ideal leader in this role. I look forward to working with him to serve the people of Cambria County, addressing public safety and the issues that matter most to that wonderful community.

□ 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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## 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 6 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. STRONG) at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

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

Emmanuel, God with us, come and ransom us from all that seeks to hold us captive. Release us from our fears, attend to us in our loneliness, bring us back from our exile, and receive us once again into the certainty of Your favor.

You who are wisdom, who has ordered all things, show us the path of Your knowledge, and teach us the ways we should go.

Bright morning star, bring us Your comfort. Divine dayspring, shine down on us the promise of Your kingdom and bring us Your consolation. Light of the world, dispel the shadows of our night and turn our darkness into day.

O come, O King of kings, come and bind our hearts to Your own. Bid cease all our sad divisions. Shake all the nations so that our deepest desires for Your justice and mercy would be revealed. Fill this House and our lives with Your glory. King of peace, reign in our lives this day.

For it is in Your sovereign 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 Illinois (Mr. CASTEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CASTEN 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.

## NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to

give notice of my intent to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

House resolution directing the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to release to the public the committee's report on its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz.

Whereas, on April 9, 2021, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives announced that it had begun to investigate allegations that Representative Matt Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and/or illicit drug use, shared inappropriate images or videos on the House floor, misused State identification records, converted campaign funds for personal use, and/or accepted a bribe, improper gratuity, or impermissible gift in violation of the rules of the House, laws, or other standards of conduct;

Whereas, over 3 years, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives compiled an extensive investigative record pursuant to Committee Rules 14(a)(3) and 18(a) into allegations that Representative Gaetz may have engaged in sexual misconduct and illicit drug use, accepted improper gifts, dispensed special privileges and favors to individuals with whom he had a personal relationship, and sought to obstruct government investigations of his conduct;

Whereas, on November 13, 2024, Representative Matt Gaetz announced his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, there is precedent for the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to continue investigating and release reports of investigations into former Members of the House of Representatives;

Whereas, in 1987, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives released a report on its investigation into allegations of the misuse of campaign funds, improper gifts, the failure to reveal business interests on his financial disclosure, and the acceptance of a bribe by former Representative Bill Boner following his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, in 1990, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives released a report on its investigations of sexual misconduct allegations, which included having sexual intercourse with a minor and making sexual advances toward a congressional employee, against former Representative Don Lukens following his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, in 2006, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives released a report on its investigation into sexual misconduct allegations, which included sending sexually explicit images to at least one minor, against former Representative Mark Foley following his resignation from Congress;

Whereas, in 2011, the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives continued its investigation into allega-

tions of sexual misconduct against former Representative Eric Massa following his resignation; and

Whereas, given the serious nature of the allegations against Representative Gaetz, a failure of the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives to publicly release its report on its investigation undermines the committee's credibility and impedes the safety, dignity, and integrity of the legislative proceedings of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Committee on Ethics of the House of Representatives shall immediately release the latest draft of its report and a summary of its findings to the public, including any conclusions, draft reports, recommendations, attachments, exhibits and accompanying materials, with such redactions as may be necessary and appropriate to protect sensitive information, including witness identities, relating to its investigation into allegations against former Representative Matt Gaetz.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. VAN DUYNE). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Illinois will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1415

## HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF GREEN COVE SPRINGS, FLORIDA

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Madam Speaker, what do Green Cove Springs, Florida, and fine wine have in common?

They both get better with age.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Green Cove Springs, Florida, which was founded on November 2, 1874.

Green Cove Springs, my wife Abby's hometown, has been a thriving community for over 150 years. The city got its name from its beautiful mineral spring, which attracted folks who arrived by train or boat from all over the country and helped Green Cove Springs grow into the unique town it is today.

Madam Speaker, 150 years is such a milestone that the city began their anniversary celebration on Saturday, November 2, and they are planning dozens of events throughout 2025.