

You have opened wide doors of opportunities for us to make a difference in this place, our communities, and our world. May we walk through those doors with confidence and with firm conviction, and may we glorify You in our work today.

When those moments prove challenging, when adversaries attempt to thwart our efforts to serve as vessels for the goodness, hope, love, and peace You have poured into us, may we stand firm in our faith. May our lives in the face of all trials serve as a testament to Your mercy and grace.

We entrust this day our deliberations and our discussions into Your care, sure of Your steadfast love and emboldened by Your abiding presence.

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 gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. HINSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. HINSON 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SHERIFF JOE CHAPMAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to recognize and honor the retirement of Walton County Sheriff Joe Chapman.

Starting out as a beat cop, spending every day on the front lines keeping our community safe, to serving as Walton County sheriff, Joe Chapman has dedicated the last 40 years of his life to bringing no excuses, commonsense law enforcement to Walton County.

There is a sign above Sheriff Chapman's door that reads, "I hate excuses," and that is exactly how he operates. He is a true servant leader, a pillar to the community, and a mentor to the next generation of Georgia law enforcement.

In addition to being one of the most respected and admired lawmen in Georgia, Sheriff Chapman is a Marine Corps and Georgia Army National Guard veteran and a commissioner for the Sheriff's Retirement Fund of Georgia.

Sheriff Chapman's legacy and impact on Walton County will not be soon forgotten. I want to express my gratitude to Sheriff Chapman for his selfless work over these last 20 years. On behalf of Georgia's 10th Congressional District, I thank him for his service. I wish him a happy, healthy, and safe retirement. He has certainly earned it.

END HUNGER NOW

(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, under the leadership of Food Service Director Kirsten Nelson, the Acton-Boxborough Regional School District is proving that school meals can be local, nutritious, and delicious.

Last month, I joined school leaders, State and local officials, and food hub staff at Acton-Boxborough High School in my home State of Massachusetts to learn more about the nutritious meals being prepared for students using local produce.

With the support of Federal funding through the Farm to School Program, the district is utilizing nearby food hubs to purchase fruits and vegetables from local farmers. Our State's universal meal program has been key to improving school meal offerings and expanding access to local produce for all students.

I tried the curry cauliflower, and it was delicious. I talked with some of the students, who told me they have taught their parents recipes from school lunches.

This partnership should serve as inspiration for all of us to continue our work to improve school food, strengthen food systems, and end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING ERNEST TOPNESS

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ernest Topness for his distinguished and impactful career serving both our Nation and the people of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Mr. Topness, known by many as Ernie, first joined the United States Postal Service in 1959 after serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean war.

Ernie delivered mail in Cedar Rapids for 65 years, making connections and building friendships with those on his route.

Ernie's dedication is unmatched. When others would sit out on a snow day or call in sick, he was always known to actually show up.

At the age of 91, Ernie recently retired as the second longest serving mail carrier in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Topness' legacy is one of unwavering dedication and inspiring service. We wish him all the best in his well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATING PETER J. WESTBROOK

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

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of a trailblazing Olympic fencer, Peter J. Westbrook, who unfortunately passed away this weekend.

To keep her son off the tumultuous streets of 1967 Newark, Peter Westbrook's mother, Mariko, enrolled him in fencing class, where his natural talents were fully realized.

In 1984, he became the first Black American to win an Olympic bronze medal in fencing. Throughout his career, he won countless competitions and is recognized by many athletic halls of fame.

One of his greatest achievements, Mr. Speaker, was the opening of the Peter Westbrook Foundation, which allowed him to introduce Black and Latino youth to the fencing world, including my own family, which was touched by him. The foundation provides fencing lessons, academic assistance, and opportunities for marginalized youth.

The foundation has produced seven Olympians. Just this year, Lauren Scruggs, a foundation alum, made history by becoming the first Black woman to win a gold medal in the Olympics in fencing.

Peter Westbrook left an incredible legacy in the fencing world. He was an icon and trailblazer and changed the lives of countless youth. He will always be remembered in my household, New York City, and the country.

REMEMBERING STANLEY KLEIN

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Stanley Klein, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and entrepreneur. Stanley leaves behind a legacy of love, integrity, and innovation.

Born on July 20, 1942, Stanley graduated from Allderice High School in 1960 and joined the Army. After the Army, Stanley attended Youngstown State College in Ohio and thereafter met his late first wife, Terry.

Stanley and his father-in-law, Irving Stern, went into business together and founded Multi-Flow Dispensers of Ohio. Stanley grew Multi-Flow into the dominant soft drink and beverage dispensing business for bars, restaurants, and taverns throughout north and central Ohio.

Stanley was married to his wife, Laura, for more than 44 years. He cherished every moment spent with his

family, especially his grandchildren, who were the light of his life.

Mr. Klein will be dearly missed, but his spirit will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

HONORING WILLIAM STEINER

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my good friend, Orange County Supervisor Bill Steiner.

Bill was a valued neighbor, constituent, and leader in Orange County whose work directly impacted the lives of so many in our community. As an Orange city councilmember and Orange County supervisor, he dedicated his life to serving others.

Out of the many issues Bill championed, his passion was child welfare advocacy. His work was the driving force behind the creation of the Orange County Orangewood Children's Home.

Today, Bill's 5 children and 16 grandchildren help keep his memory alive.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Bill for a lifetime of work for our community and for his leadership. He will never be forgotten.

CONGRESS MUST HELP FARMERS

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, farmers across North Carolina have had extreme difficulty, especially over the past 2 years, due to increased input costs and lower prices for their crops and products.

Drought withered tobacco, corn, and other crops across eastern North Carolina, and farmers are still struggling after Hurricane Helene.

If that is not enough, our farmers have fed the American people for Thanksgiving, and in return, they received the new Adverse Effect Wage Rate for 2025. In North Carolina, we are talking about an increase of 2.17 percent.

Mr. Speaker, too many are hurting trying to find out how to keep their family farms operating.

Agriculture is North Carolina's leading industry. We must help our farmers.

I urge Congress to address the immediate need for disaster assistance for our agricultural community in North Carolina and to hit pause on the Adverse Effect Wage Rate.

CALIFORNIA VOTERS ARE CLEAR ON CRIME

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, California voters have made it very clear.

They are tired of the unchecked crime and soft-on-crime policies that have plagued our State for years.

With over 68 percent voting to strengthen penalties through Proposition 36 that just recently passed, the message couldn't be louder: Enough is enough.

What are California Democrats doing? Instead of focusing on this overwhelming mandate to restore public safety, they are pouring their energy into Trump-proofing California, an obsession with political theater while crime continues to rise and neighborhoods feel less safe.

Their so-called legislative solutions are more about optics than outcomes.

The voters wanted more action, but Democrats are too busy spinning excuses about pendulums and alternatives to incarceration to deliver real actual results.

Californians aren't asking for extreme swings. They are asking for accountability.

The people voted to reverse the disastrous criminal justice policies of the past. They want true action.

Sacramento Democrats need to stop ignoring that and wasting money on other things, like trying to stop an agenda here that will make the prices of food and energy go down and help their own citizens.

Enough with the distractions. Enough with the games. Let's get serious.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 5349, CRUCIAL COMMUNISM TEACHING ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7198, PROVE IT ACT OF 2024

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1602 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1602

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 5349) to develop and disseminate a civic education curriculum and oral history resources regarding certain political ideologies, 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 Education and the Workforce 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 Education and the Workforce or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part A of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without inter-

vention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) 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. 7198) to amend title 5, United States Code, to require greater transparency for Federal regulatory decisions that impact small businesses, 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 the Judiciary 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 the Judiciary or their respective designees; (2) the further amendment printed in part B of the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be in order without intervention of any point of order, shall be considered as read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question; and (3) one motion to recommit.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BURGESS. 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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, last night, the House Committee on Rules met to report House Resolution 1602, providing for consideration of two pieces of legislation.

First, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and the ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce. It also provides for one motion to recommit.

Second, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7198, the Prove It Act, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority