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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 5, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL MEUSER 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 11:50 a.m.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF SHIRLEY CHISHOLM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Shirley Chisholm as we mark the 100th anniversary of her birth, November 30, 1924, and as we commemorate her many achievements by posthumously awarding the Congressional Gold Medal.

The daughter of immigrants, Shirley Chisholm represents the American Dream realized. Born and raised in

Brooklyn, New York, she would go on to be a trailblazer, a catalyst for change, and an inspiration for generations after her.

In 1968, she would become the first Black woman elected to the United States Congress, and in 1971, was a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus.

In 1972, she became the first Black woman to run for a major party's nomination for President. Before forever changing the national political landscape, Shirley Chisholm sought to change her neighborhood, jumping into local politics in the 1950s after receiving a bachelor's degree from Brooklyn College and a master's in childhood education from Columbia University.

Amid her community, she became an authority on issues concerning child welfare and was a staunch advocate for education reform. After being elected to serve in the New York State Assembly in 1964, she worked to expand food and nutrition programs for the poorest in her community and fought to provide disadvantaged students with educational opportunities.

She brought an unwavering commitment to justice, equality, and opportunity to Congress serving New York's 12th District for seven terms. It was here in these Halls and in this very Chamber that Shirley Chisholm advanced policies that provided healthy food options for mothers and children, expanded childcare, and strengthened healthcare coverage, and much, much more.

Shirley Chisholm's famous declaration during her historic Presidential bid, "unbought and unbossed," continues to resonate as a call for courage, authenticity, and integrity in public service.

I am deeply honored to represent the district that serves as her final resting place at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Buffalo, New York. It was in our community that she married her husband, the

late Assemblyman Arthur Hardwick, Jr., and it is here that the two of them made their home following her retirement from Congress.

Her presence in our community is a powerful reminder of her enduring legacy. We are forever indebted to her for her service in advancing civil rights, women's rights, and making our Nation more equitable for all.

Yet, let us remember Shirley Chisholm not only for her achievements, but for the doors she opened and for others to follow. May she rest in peace and power.

REMEMBERING PRIVATE FIRST CLASS ALLEN GANG

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of Private First Class Allen Gang, who passed away on November 10, 2024.

Born into a family with deep military roots, he entered the United States Army at the age of 19. He served in Vietnam in the 17th Calvary Regiment of the 199th Infantry Brigade where he sustained an injury while in combat in February of 1968.

Upon his return to the United States, Private First Class Gang married his beloved wife, Kitty. Together, they raised six children.

He received numerous awards honoring his dedication and valor displayed during his service, including the Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, as well as numerous badges and ribbons.

In June, I had the distinct privilege of presenting Private First Class Gang with his Purple Heart Medal, awarded to servicemembers who have been wounded or killed as a result of enemy action while serving in our military.

A lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and a member of the American Legion Post 721 in his beloved south Buffalo, he exemplified the enduring spirit of camaraderie and service. He leaves behind his wife, 6

□ 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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children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren.

With bravery and commitment, Allen Gang served this Nation contributing to the freedoms we enjoy today.

May he rest in peace.

SHOPPING SMALL BUSINESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the economic heartbeat of Iowa, our small businesses.

In Iowa, over 99 percent of businesses are small, many of which are family-owned. That is over 282,000 small businesses employing more than 616,000 people.

At a time of great economic uncertainty across the country, Iowa has been a beacon of hope and proven to be one of the best States to own and operate a business.

This past weekend, we celebrated Small Business Saturday encouraging folks to shop local for the holidays. As we approach Christmas and the New Year, I encourage Iowans and Americans everywhere to continue supporting small businesses and shopping local during this holiday season.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and without them, we don't have large businesses and our Nation's economic engine would falter.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the vital contributions of small businesses in Iowa and across the country, and to continue advocating for their success.

RECOGNIZING IOWA REGIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR KAITLIN MAHONEY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first-ever Iowa Regional Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Kaitlin Mahoney. Mrs. Mahoney has taught at Bettendorf High School for 11 years, molding the minds of our future generations.

Mrs. Mahoney believes that education begins with the ability to engage students. She has worked vigorously to adapt the school algebra curriculum, enabling hundreds of students to move on to higher education. She also works as a student counselor, pushing students toward achievements previously unthinkable.

It is the creativity and passion of educators like Mrs. Mahoney that will push this Nation across the finish line of our educational goals. The fostering of our youth must be at the forefront of concern in this Nation if it is to remain the greatest country in the world.

She will be competing against other finalists for the title of the 2025 Iowa Educator of the Year, the winner of which will be announced later this year. I wish Mrs. Mahoney all the luck in the world.

MAINTAINING THE VALUES OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5349, the Crucial Communism Teaching Act.

This important bill directs the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation to develop a curriculum that teaches high school students about the dangers of communism and its conflict with the values of American democracy.

As communist nations continue ramping up their aggression toward the U.S., it is crucial that we educate the next generation on the stark realities of totalitarian regimes and human suffering caused by communism.

By providing students with these critical resources, we can help them understand the importance of liberty, individual rights, free markets, and the constitutional principles that define our Nation. This bill will prepare our young people to be responsible citizens who can safeguard the freedoms we hold dear.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5349 and ensure that future generations are educated on the lessons of history.

RECOGNIZING THE IOWA COMPUTER SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Iowa Computer Science Technology Association for helping Iowa rank amongst the top 10 States in the Nation for providing access to high-quality computer science education.

Iowa's top 10 ranking in the 2023-2024 academic year of computer science class availability beats the national average by 24 percent, with 84 percent of public schools offering computer science classes.

With computer and information technology jobs rising exponentially across the United States, the efforts of these passionate educators will be reflected in the success of Iowa's youth as they set the standard in the workforce.

As we move forward in the ever-changing technological climate, it is imperative that we continue to develop innovative ways of helping our students achieve success, not only on the national stage, but on the world stage, as well.

This is a win for the people of Iowa and for America. The fight for educational success is never over, and we must continue to prioritize education, continually aiming for a brighter future for our students.

HONORING THE 83RD ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Saturday, December 7, will be the honoring and remembering of the 83rd anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, a day that will live in infamy, a day that claimed the lives of 2,403 American heroes.

On December 7, 1941, a peaceful Sunday morning was torn apart when Japan launched a surprise assault on our naval base in Hawaii. Ships were

sunk, planes were destroyed, and lives were lost. Indeed, there is the USS Arizona Memorial that remains there today.

From this devastating attack, our Nation's strength and unity emerged. Pearl Harbor awakened an unshakable spirit of patriotism and resolve. Americans, ordinary men and women, answered the call to defend freedom and protect the ideals that make this country great and that continued democracy throughout the world.

Let us honor those who sacrificed everything and remember their courage and dedication. Their legacy lives on in the enduring strength of this Nation, which will never falter in the face of adversity and will always stand for freedom and justice.

FROM DETROIT TO BHOPAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, from Detroit to Bhopal, we have a right to breathe clean air. This week marks 40 years since the Bhopal chemicals disaster in India, and the survivors are still sick and waiting for justice.

Union Carbide, driven by corporate greed, caused one of the worst chemical disasters in history, poisoning the residents and communities.

I was honored to meet some of the survivors and proud to join them in their fight for justice. I joined Senator MERKLEY and Representative JAYAPAL to introduce a resolution reaffirming the need for stronger laws to prevent these tragedies and keep communities safe.

Many of our communities in Michigan's 12th District live in shadows of corporate polluters, so this fight is personal to me. We are tired of greedy corporations poisoning our communities and getting away with it.

In the Bhopal chemical disaster, around 20,000 people were killed when poison gas was released into the air. Nearly half a million people have suffered illnesses and premature death after the initial incident.

Of course, the U.S. refused to extradite the CEO of Union Carbide, the company that owned and ran the Bhopal facility, to face criminal charges.

We need and deserve a better world, not a world where the color of your skin, your income, or your neighborhood where you were born puts you at a higher risk of being exposed to pollution that causes disease and death.

We see it in places like Detroit and Dearborn's Southend communities where there are higher rates of cancer and asthma. We cannot tolerate a world where corporations take all of the profit and none of the liability.

Dow Chemical knowingly took responsibility for this disaster when it bought the company. Yet, they still refused to compensate the survivors. Dow was headquartered in Michigan, and if they think their actions are just going