

Mrs. BICE 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 ZACH TERRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach, Florida, and our bold spiritual leader, Pastor Zach Terry.

My wife and I have discovered that First Baptist is a place to find strength and hope in times of adversity and to feel God's love. It is an incredibly welcoming place, and I challenge anyone to make it from the parking lot into the sanctuary without getting welcomed at least twice.

First Baptist is a cornerstone of our community, having reached and transformed countless lives, both in northeast Florida and, really, all over the world. Through its outreach programs and compassionate ministries, the church has been a steadfast advocate for the greater community, serving neighbors and sharing God's grace.

On October 7, Hamas had its attack in Israel. There were 54 members of the First Baptist Church of Fernandina Beach who found themselves stuck in Israel. Airports closed. Roads shut down. There was limited travel. It was indeed a scary time for getting these pilgrims out of that country safely.

Every day, we would text or communicate with the group, including Pastor Terry, about options, how we do it, what we could do. There was a lot of hunkering down. After a very, very long bus trip to Jordan over a week later, the team made it out.

During that time of chaos, Pastor Zach made several videos saying: We are calm. We are good.

Being a spiritual, dedicated shepherd, he reminded everyone what Mark 11:22 says: "Have faith in God." By faith and hope in a God who never fails, our congregation did make it safely back home.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to welcome Pastor Zach Terry; his wife, Julie; their children, Cole, Caitlyn, and Carly; and Pastor Zach's mother, Ms. Teresa Terry.

There are dozens of members of the congregation here in our Nation's Capital. It is a big day for everybody from the small town of Fernandina Beach.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### ASSAD REGIME CONDEMNED

(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, last night, with the bipartisan support of the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, MIKE ROGERS, and Ranking Member GREG MEEKS, the House passed the Assad Regime Anti-Normalization Act.

This legislation holds the regime of dictator Bashar al-Assad accountable for the murder of a million Syrians, with half of its population, 10 million people, losing their homes and businesses. Assad is an ally of war criminal Putin.

The bill passed the House floor with a vote of 389-32. This legislation improves and strengthens the bipartisan commitment to punish offenders while providing additional protection for humanitarian organizations serving the Syrian people.

The bill now awaits a vote in the Senate for final passage.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

#### CONGRATULATING JESSE RODRIGUEZ

(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 celebrate an artist, an advocate, and a creator of community pride, Jesse Rodriguez, better known as Magnolia Grown.

Last month, Jesse achieved something special for our community. His sculpture, "Dale Shine," which you see behind me, was chosen to go to The Cheech, the finest private collection of Chicano art in the world, to become a part of their permanent collection.

This is a first for Houston. It is a first for Texas.

Jesse's work draws from deep cultural roots established while growing up in my district in Magnolia Park. His art is the art of our community, of growing up poor while living in full color, of a shared history "de nuestra gente" "of the people."

Jesse has become a community advocate in the East End portion of our district. He founded Magnolia Park Arts and Community to inspire the next generation to use art for action and to never forget where they came from.

He puts people over politics. He puts arts over darkness. We are so proud of him and everything that he has done, and I congratulate Jesse.

#### REVERSE COURSE ON LNG EXPORT BAN

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act.

The bill is simple. It would repeal President Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas, or LNG, exports. By passing H.R. 7176, we would strengthen our struggling economy, further U.S. leadership in reducing emissions, and increase the energy security of the United States and our allies.

Green New Deal activists shouldn't be driving America's energy policy, especially at the White House. Restricting LNG exports will mean higher prices at home for Americans as it reduces the amount of worldwide output, putting upward pressure on prices for energy and all related goods. It also decreases investment in infrastructure and good-paying American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, we must reverse course on this disastrous decision. Americans are already paying too much at the pump, the grocery store, and everywhere else. We must restore America's energy independence from foreign energy producers.

#### HONORING MATTHEW JEFFERSON ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Matthew Jefferson, in honor of his 100th birthday.

Matt Jefferson and his late wife, Lillie, worked to eliminate racial, educational, and economic barriers in Newton. As Black residents in an overwhelmingly White city, they devoted themselves to their religious community, the Myrtle Baptist Church; their neighborhood, the village in West Newton, built around Myrtle; and the civil rights of people of color.

Matt and Lillie helped found the Newton Interracial Fellowship to bring racial equity to Newton and helped form Newton's Fair Housing Committee, established to eliminate racial bias in housing.

In 1968, Matt was appointed to the board of aldermen, becoming Newton's first Black city alderman. The board instituted the fair housing requirement that at least 10 percent of any large housing development filing for a special permit be affordable.

Furthermore, he served on many boards and committees, including the Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Andover Newton Theological School, Middlesex Community College, Newton Housing Authority, and as president of the South Middlesex branch of the NAACP.

Above all else, Matt is known for his kindness and generosity. He is a mentor, leader, family man, and fierce advocate for social justice.

I am proud to recognize Mr. Jefferson's accomplishments this Black History Month. Happy 100th birthday.

#### KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVAL DISASTER

(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, the Klamath River Hydroelectric Project in the northern California and southern Oregon area, including my district, had produced annually enough reliable, cheap, renewable, CO<sub>2</sub>-free electricity for 70,000 households. They provided good-paying jobs and were the largest single private taxpayer in Siskiyou County, California, by having these dams.

Now, the Klamath removal project is an assault on the people and livelihoods of the people in the Klamath Basin. It is an attack on American agriculture, a misguided attempt to help a fish population that this Klamath dam removal will likely end up destroying, as evidenced by the dirty plume of water you see entering into the stream there. Unbelievable.

People are now finding their wells are going dry because they are not being supported by having the lakes there anymore. They are finding that the wells they do have are starting to feel the effects of this toxic plume hitting them. The water supply that the fish, wildlife, and livestock would normally get out of the river is tainted. You are seeing massive fish kills and wildlife kill.

One lady sent an example to my office of the water that came out that she used to bathe her child in. It was the same color as this stuff right here. I wouldn't wash my snow tires in that, I don't think, let alone my child.

#### HONORING CLIFFORD DeBAPTISTE

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a resident of my community, Clifford DeBaptiste, who will be celebrating his 100th birthday this May.

Clifford has served our community for over 70 years, first in the Army, where he reached the rank of sergeant major, and then as a business and civic leader in our community.

After serving in uniform, Clifford moved to West Chester with his wife, Inez, and his daughters, Lillian, Inez, and Celeste, where he attended our West Chester University and the first degree-granting HBCU, our Lincoln University.

He and Inez opened several funeral homes, becoming active members of the local business community. During this time, he also served 13 terms as the chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Funeral Directors.

In 1994, he made history as the very first Black mayor of our West Chester. His work revitalized West Chester's downtown and led to incredible growth for local businesses, with the number of restaurants in the borough rising from 15 to 57 during his term.

Since his retirement, he has remained very active in our local community. We are so grateful for his contributions and for those of his daughter, Lillian, who followed in his footsteps and is now the current mayor of West Chester. I wish a happy early birthday to Clifford.

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#### REMEMBERING CAPTAIN LARRY TAYLOR

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Chattanooga native and our Nation's most recent Medal of Honor recipient, Captain Larry Taylor. Captain Taylor passed away earlier this year on January 28.

I have had many honors and privileges as the Representative for Tennessee's Third Congressional District.

One of the highest honors of my career was getting to know Captain Taylor and his family while working with them and east Tennessee's steadfast and determined veterans to have the Medal of Honor awarded to Larry Taylor for his heroic, valiant, and selfless service during the Vietnam war.

Captain Taylor's heroic actions on June 18, 1968, near the village of Ap Go Cong not only saved the lives of his fellow brothers in arms but also revolutionized the way our military evacuates troops under fire.

Larry Taylor truly embodied the Tennessee volunteer spirit and the best of America and what our military stands for.

We thank God for Captain Larry Taylor's life and service to America and the cause of freedom. Our Nation honors and remembers this great man, Tennessean, and patriot.

#### REMEMBERING THE CITY OF WRANGELL, ALASKA

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

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn with the city of Wrangell, Alaska. At 9 p.m. on November 20, 2023, 37 acres of land descended on three houses at mile 11 of the Zimovia Highway in Wrangell. The landslide scattered everything, cutting off 55 homes and 71 people from their community.

Navigating wind, rain, and snapping trees, first responders went straight into the debris to find their neighbors.

With no cell service, firefighters went door to door. Local fishing boats transported survivors back to the city.

In the days following, the Coast Guard, State geologists, State troopers, and other public servants joined the search and rescue teams.

Like Alaskans always do, the Wrangell community pulled together in the face of adversity. Christina Florschutz was rescued from the debris and, for that, Alaskans are grateful.

Tragically, her husband, Otto, and the neighboring Heller family with three children aged 16, 12, and 11 did not survive.

Their loss will forever change this small community, and it should remind us of our duty. From better monitoring systems to faster FEMA responses, Americans expect the Federal Government to be ready when disaster strikes.

I hope that my colleagues will join me in making that a reality and remembering the story of Wrangell.

#### HONORING JIM BLACK

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Third District banker, community servant, and World War II veteran, Jim Black.

As the oldest World War II veteran living at the Norfolk, Nebraska, veterans home, Jim turned 100 years of age in January and has lived a life full of service to his community and his country.

A native of Fullerton, Nebraska, Jim's undeterable desire to serve led him to enlist in the Navy after he was initially denied enlistment by the Army and the Army Air Corps for supposed medical issues.

During the war, he served on three different submarines, including the USS *Silversides*, which is credited with the sinking of 23 enemy submarines.

After the war, Jim returned to Nebraska to work at Fullerton's First National Bank and Cones State Bank in Pierce.

For his remarkable dedication to bettering the world around him, he was honored with the title of 2008 Citizen of the Year for his championing of the Discovery Bridge project linking Cedar County, Nebraska, and Yankton, South Dakota.

Jim exemplifies Nebraska values of determination, patriotism, and civic engagement. Today, he lives in Norfolk, Nebraska, and is a model for giving back to the community.

His enduring willingness to serve and can-do attitude represents the best of Third District Nebraskans.

#### CELEBRATING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

(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 to celebrate and acknowledge Career and Technical Education Month.