

Show us how to mend fences with one another, to turn disputes into discussions, to bridge impasses with compassion, and to set aside our irritation and yield to Your direction.

Today, O Lord, may we hear Your voice and set our will aside and obey Your own.

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 North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina 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.

BIDEN MAKES FALSE CLAIMS

(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, Biden issued a statement in December falsely claiming job creation and reduced inflation as the American people have endured the highest inflation in 40 years. His war on energy independence has led to devastating fuel costs for cars and homes.

The reality is much different, as American families know. As described by Stephen Moore of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity, also last month: "The economy is still creating jobs. . . . The bad news: It is government spending and debt that continue to finance the job creation. This year . . . the largest employers have been Federal, State, and local governments. . . ."

I am grateful that, last year, Republicans passed the largest deficit reduction package in American history, supporting job creation.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11 attacks

across America imminent, as our country has been warned by the FBI.

COMMITTING TO AFFORDABLE CHILDCARE

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

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is the new year. Congress is back in session; students are back in school; and parents are preparing for the year ahead. For many families, that means figuring out childcare.

I remember when I was a young mother running a small law firm with two other women. Two of us were working mothers. We worked with our kids literally on our hips, and we were lucky to be able to do that. This isn't the case for millions of parents, and it shouldn't have to be.

Fourteen million parents rely on childcare, and daycare, on average, costs \$11,000 per year. That is if parents can even find it.

It is often an impossible cycle. Parents can't find work if they can't secure childcare and can't pay for childcare without working, which is why we need to bring bills to the floor like the Child Care for Every Community Act. Under this bill, half of American families would pay no more than \$10 a day for childcare.

High-quality, accessible, and affordable childcare deserves our attention and commitment this year and every year because it is good for our economy, good for parents and children, and good for our future.

CALIFORNIA GUN LAW BLOCKED

(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, yet another California law forbidding residents of the State from carrying guns in most public areas has, thankfully, been blocked from taking effect, at least for now. This is good news for California, for other States that tend to copy our bad ideas, and for the constitutional right to bear arms.

This is not, however, Governor Newsom's first unconstitutional attack on our Second Amendment, and it is certainly not going to be his last. The law, SB 2, would increase California's requirements for trying to lawfully obtain a concealed carry permit and also ban carrying concealed weapons in most public areas.

Many county sheriff's offices throughout the State, including in northern California, opposed the law. Sutter and Yuba Counties made the decision to "exercise [their] common sense and discretion to ensure the law is not enforced in a way that would violate the rights of our citizens." Good on them.

As the Member of Congress representing Yuba and Sutter Counties, I

applaud their decision to stand up against the State's unconstitutional attack on the Second Amendment. Law-abiding concealed carry permit holders are not the problem. It is the criminals that are the problem. Start going after the bad guys and leave the good guys alone.

Mr. Speaker, other States that are watching this should not act like we do in California.

BURDEN OF RISING COSTS

(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, I rise to shed light on a pressing issue weighing heavily on residents of eastern North Carolina: the burden of high costs.

One constituent shared: "On a retired educator's budget and as a part-time employee, it is impossible to keep up with rising costs. I can't win for losing. I find myself borrowing from Peter to pay Paul."

Many are finding it extremely difficult to put food on the table. Another constituent shared: "Groceries are extremely expensive. We are just a family of two and have to budget so much of our paychecks for groceries."

In North Carolina, approximately 10 percent of the population is battling food insecurity. The need for good-paying jobs in eastern North Carolina is more critical now than ever.

I strongly encourage Congress to prioritize the Southeastern Crescent Economic Empowerment Act and broader access to healthy, safe, and affordable foods.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PASTOR CLARENCE SEXTON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my dear, good friend, Pastor Clarence Sexton, who passed away on December 12 at the age of 75. He was very kind to me through some tough times and would often pray with me and congratulate me on tough wins and an occasional loss.

Pastor Sexton loved the Lord, and everything he did was to serve Him. He founded Crown College in 1991 to train students to serve Jesus Christ in local churches and all across our great world and to help spread the Gospel.

Everyone who met him knew of his faithfulness as well as his support for conservative ideals and family values, which is why he was given the opportunity to conduct the funeral of Robert Trump in 2020.

My dad always used to say that if preachers would just preach the Gospel, we would solve most of the world's problems. Pastor Sexton did preach the Gospel faithfully, without any agenda except to serve the Lord.

I offer my sincere condolences to his lovely wife, Evelyn, of 56 years, his two sons, Shannon and Matt, and everyone else who knew him and loved him. Ms. Evelyn said her husband loved people, his country, and, most of all, loved his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. She said he lived his life to advance God's kingdom on Earth.

We will certainly miss Pastor Sexton, but he is with the Lord now. We will never forget him.

On a personal note, I always remember that when I adopted my little girl, he came and prayed for us. He will be missed.

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, after the 2022 White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, Democrats, led by Speaker PELOSI and President Biden, established a program to provide eligible families \$120 per child over the summer for nutritious food.

I thank Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and Deputy Under Secretary Stacy Dean for standing up the new summer EBT program.

Thirty-five States, including my own State, Massachusetts, five territories, and four Tribes signed up to participate in 2024, helping 21 million kids across the country.

I hope that the States that are working with the USDA to adopt programs in 2025 keep at it. Hungry kids are counting on them.

To the Republican Governors who rejected this program, like Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, who said it "does nothing to promote nutrition," or Nebraska Governor Jim Pillen, who said, "I don't believe in welfare," oh my God, what the hell is wrong with these people, Mr. Speaker? I say to them: Shame on you for taking food from hungry kids.

Summer EBT will make a huge difference as we work to end hunger now.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE KENNETH SPANAGEL

(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 to recognize Parma Municipal Court Judge Kenneth Spanagel. Judge Spanagel served his community with distinction for 36 years as a municipal court judge.

After graduating from Northwestern University and Case Western Reserve School of Law, Judge Spanagel ran his own law office until 1988, when he was first elected as Parma's municipal court judge.

Over his three decades of service, Judge Spanagel has distinguished himself with his kind heart and commu-

nity outreach, and he has received multiple awards and honors. He leaves a legacy of fairness and justice in northeast Ohio.

On behalf of Ohio's Seventh Congressional District, I thank Judge Spanagel for his dedication to our community. We all wish him a happy retirement.

RECOGNIZING KOREAN AMERICAN DAY

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

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the immense contributions of Korean Americans and in support of my resolution honoring Korean American Day.

It has been 121 years since the first Korean Americans arrived in the United States. Over that period of time, they changed our country's history, from business to music to even the foods we eat.

That is why I am proud that we are developing the first Korean-American national museum in the United States in the heart of Los Angeles' Koreatown. I am proud to have secured the first \$7 million that will help not only design it but get it off the ground.

In our communities, Korean soldiers who served alongside Americans in Vietnam were shut out for too long. With my colleagues, we secured veterans benefits for these heroes.

Now, I am pushing to name a local post office in honor of Korean American leader Dosan Ahn Chang Ho. This Korean American Day, let's celebrate these stories that are intertwined with the fabric of our Nation.

RECOGNIZING ANNETTE LEWIS ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Annette Lewis of Total Action for Progress on her retirement after 35 years of service.

Annette began her career with TAP as a summer youth counselor and quickly rose to eventually become president of the organization with which she started.

Since TAP's inception, Annette, with the help of donors and volunteers, has improved countless lives in our community, serving several cities in the Sixth District of Virginia.

The organization focuses on helping the most vulnerable citizens and families achieve sustainable and equitable economic and personal independence through education, employment, affordable housing, and safe and healthy environments.

Because of her outstanding work, many folks in the Shenandoah Valley have been assisted by the organization and are now thriving both personally and financially.

I congratulate Annette Lewis on her many years of success, and I wish her a wonderful retirement.

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ANNIVERSARY OF ALABAMA'S DEVASTATING TORNADOES

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to observe the 1-year anniversary of the devastating tornadoes of January 12, 2023, that struck Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, including my hometown of Selma, Alabama. In the year since the disaster, my team and I have been working diligently with our Federal, State, and local partners to coordinate an effort and a response to this disaster.

We are immensely grateful to President Biden for his expedited approval of Governor Ivey's disaster declaration and for granting my request to increase the Federal cost share for debris removal to 100 percent.

Following the storms, I hosted our first community conversation, so that our friends and neighbors could share their thoughts about our recovery. With that in mind, we were able to successfully secure a \$500,000 Federal planning grant from EDA to support long-term recovery efforts in Selma and Dallas County.

Working together, we have delivered more than \$22 million in FEMA and SBA, small business assistance, to Greene County, Hale County, Sumter County, and Dallas County. We also secured \$2 million from the Delta Regional Authority to repave Selma roads, and a \$500,000 CHOICE grant from HUD to build more affordable housing.

While there is so much more work to be done, Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the progress we have made, and I extend my sincere thanks to every individual, every agency that has helped us. We are on the road to recovery, and we will build back better because of your efforts.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF TARVER MICKEL BRADDOCK

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

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, today my community is hurting. They are mourning the loss of Tarver Mickel Braddock, a student athlete at Neville High School in Monroe, Louisiana, who left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him.

Tarver was known for his contagious positive attitude and his love of making people laugh. To know Tarver meant your life was made better just by being in his presence.

As I look up into the House gallery at the faces of his classmates who are