

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1433

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote No. 54 on H.R. 5375, I was not recorded because of an unexpected flight change forcing me to leave Washington, D.C. early. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 54.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KEAN of New Jersey) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 15, 2024.

I hereby designate the period from Thursday, February 15, 2024, through Tuesday, February 27, 2024, as a "district work period" under section 3(z) of House Resolution 5.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

#### GREAT LAKES TOO IMPORTANT TO NEGLECT

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

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, as a proud native Michigander, I am keenly aware of the importance of our Great Lakes. I grew up enjoying the national treasure of the Great Lakes, and I want the same opportunity for my three young boys and for generations and centuries beyond.

Michigan was blessed with a bountiful abundance of natural resources, holding the second-most coastline of any State in the Union because of our Great Lakes.

Our Great Lakes are too important to neglect. They are too important for our economy, national security, and Michigan's way of life.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I joined a bipartisan, bicameral delegation to introduce legislation that would extend the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. With the Great Lakes contributing over 90 percent of our Nation's fresh surface water and being the world's largest store of freshwater, it is critical that we continue to allocate resources to the GLRI.

The Great Lakes generate \$62 billion in wages annually, and every dollar invested in the GLRI yields \$3.35 of economic activity. It is literally a good investment and good for our environment, too.

Mr. Speaker, I implore all of my colleagues to support the GLRI extension to bolster the prosperity of our communities while simultaneously affirming our commitment to preserving the health and vitality of the Great Lakes for generations to come.

#### PRESIDENT BIDEN'S WORK TO BETTER AMERICA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss President Biden's work to better America.

It is tax time again, and under Republican leadership, America's richest 1 percent do not mind tax time because they save billions in unpaid taxes. Instead, Republicans like to force middle- and lower-class Americans to pay more. They rob the poor to pay the rich.

President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act is forcing the richest, tax-cheating Americans and American corporations to pay their fair share. It has helped recover more than \$500 million from 1,600 delinquent millionaires already.

Forcing millionaires and billionaires to pay their fair share will raise \$500 billion during the next decade. These funds will cut the deficit and provide more resources for hardworking American families.

I am proud to support President Biden's efforts to help Americans, and I am proud to be a Democrat because we put people over politics.

#### HONORING JOSEPH CHARLES MARTIN

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Joseph Charles Martin, a man whose dedication and service left an incredible legacy in Haverstraw, Stony Point, and beyond.

Joe's service began as Navy corpsman and continued with his decades-long career at Lederle Laboratories in Pearl River.

In his own community, in Thiells, he helped found both the St. Gregory Barbarigo Parish and the David B. Roche Fire Company, which have had a lasting impact on North Rockland.

Joe's impact extended beyond this, though. His coaching with the Haverstraw Little League and volunteering at St. Peter's People to People showcased his commitment to improving the lives of the residents of North Rockland.

His legacy of service and compassion will forever inspire us.

As we mourn Joe's passing, let us honor his memory by carrying forward his spirit of generosity and commitment to others, as his family has.

To Joe, I say:

May the road rise to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
the rains fall soft upon your fields  
and, until we meet again,  
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.

□ 1445

#### RECOGNIZING SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh who is retiring from the Summit County Prosecutor's Office as the longest serving prosecutor in the history of the county.

She was first elected 24 years ago and has served our community with diligence, professionalism, and dedication. Her final day is tomorrow, Friday, February 16.

Throughout her time as prosecutor, she has always advocated for victims and our community safety, ensuring that everyone was treated with dignity and proper care in our justice system.

In line with her championing of the most vulnerable in our community, Prosecutor Walsh led the State as the first prosecutor's office in Ohio to have a service dog named Avery as a companion to assist children who are victims and witnesses of crime.

She also created the Take Me Home Program to assist those with mental health conditions if they may wander from their home, Safety Kids Calendar, self-defense classes, and the Start By Believing, a program to support victims of sexual violence.

Her incredible and distinguished career also serves as an example to young women in Ohio's 13th Congressional District and beyond by inspiring our next generation of young women leaders.

Among her many career accolades include 59 State, national, and local awards including the Ohio Crime Victims Justice Center Models of Justice, Prosecutor of the Year, Elected Official of the Year, as a community leader who constantly and consistently champions causes for people with developmental disabilities, and Prosecutor of the Year from the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

On behalf of Ohio's 13th Congressional District, I thank Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh for her years of service, and I wish her all the best in the future.

#### RECOGNIZING DR. JASPER LEWIS

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

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Pitt County's

finest, my good friend, Dr. Jasper Lewis.

Dr. Lewis, an eastern North Carolina native, earned his dental degree at UNC Chapel Hill and then served 2 years in the U.S. Air Force. He received his post-doctoral degree from UNC in 1973 and then moved to Greenville, North Carolina, to open his practice in pediatric dentistry.

He held numerous offices in regional and national dental organizations, including as president of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Through tireless efforts, Dr. Lewis was instrumental in bringing a dental school to East Carolina University which has become the national model in rural dental care.

Dr. Lewis brought the American Dental Association's Give Kids a Smile campaign, providing oral healthcare to underprivileged children in eastern North Carolina.

Recently, Dr. Lewis was named recipient of the prestigious Legacy Award for 2023 by the Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce, an accolade that attests to his unwavering commitment to improving the lives of those in our community.

Dr. Lewis has impacted countless lives in eastern North Carolina, and today we thank him for his selfless service.

#### AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my thoughtful colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join Democrats to continue funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program.

Affordable internet is essential to participating in our modern economy and ensuring a high quality of life for workers, students, seniors, and families.

That is why our Democratic majority first launched the Affordable Connectivity Program in 2021. Since then, it has helped lower internet costs for millions of Americans and nearly 700,000 households in Illinois, including 17,000 in my district.

Nonetheless, unless Republicans join Democrats at the table, the ACP will expire in just 2 months, which would increase broadband costs and put internet access at risk for millions of Americans. We cannot let that happen.

So I will continue fighting to ensure this critical program remains funded, and I hope my Republican colleagues will join me in this effort to keep all of our communities connected.

#### HONORING RANDALL PIFER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of U.S. Army veteran Randall Pifer.

Randall was recently recognized with the Veteran of the Year Award by the Brunswick Exchange Club.

He grew up in coastal Georgia's Golden Isles where he played high school football. Randall then attended the prestigious United States Military Academy at West Point and entered Active Duty service in 1975. He served at Fort Benning, Fort Rucker, Hunter Army Airfield, and in West Germany as a combat helicopter pilot.

Randall joined the National Guard in 1989 where he continued to fly missions in the Middle East.

He retired in 2014 with over 41 years of military experience where he earned the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and numerous Army medals.

Randall Pifer's record speaks for itself. He is a patriot, a hero, and a model we should all look up to.

#### HONORING NICK AIKEN, JR., DURING NATIONAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK

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

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to honor the rich history and unwavering resilience of Black small business owners during National Entrepreneurship Week.

Mr. Speaker, 17 percent of Black-owned firms are family run, providing jobs for over 160,000 Americans. In my district, my constituent Nick Aiken, Jr., owns and operates Nikki's Place with his family in the vibrant community of Parramore in Orlando.

For 25 years, Nikki's Place has been a hub for warm service and authentic and delicious soul food. Nonetheless, like so many small and minority-owned businesses, they have faced countless hurdles, specifically in securing affordable financing.

All Nick, his family, and their 12 employees want to do is to continue to contribute to the vibrant culture of Orlando and what makes Orlando beautiful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to work with me and ensure that we invest in small businesses like Nikki's Place to ensure they receive the investment and support they need to continue making amazing and beautiful communities like mine thrive.

#### HONORING LISA FORADORI'S SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lisa

Foradori's service to the United States House of Representatives.

This month, Lisa will be retiring from the Office of Official Reporters, which is within the Office of the Clerk of the House.

Lisa has been one of the House's elite court reporters providing expert stenographic support to committees and the House floor.

Lisa was born in DuBois, Pennsylvania. That is in the 15th Congressional District, and I am very proud of that. She grew up in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania, which also was in my Congressional District for a while.

In 1982, she obtained her court reporting degree from Central Pennsylvania Business School in Summerdale, Pennsylvania.

Following graduation, Lisa worked as an official court reporter in Clearfield, Pennsylvania, and Pasco and Hernando Counties in Florida. In 1992, Lisa started her own court reporting firm in Ebensburg, Pennsylvania.

During this time, Lisa also worked as a contract reporter for the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in Johnstown, Pennsylvania.

In 2007, Lisa moved to Washington, D.C., to serve as a court reporter for the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, where she worked until joining the House.

Lisa enjoys spending time with family and friends, and two beautiful granddaughters, Vivian and Chloe. Once retired, Lisa plans to travel, play golf and tennis, and go kayaking.

Mr. Speaker, the court reporters who support the House floor are the best in their profession, and Lisa is no exception.

On behalf of the whole House, I wish to express my gratitude for Lisa's dedicated service to the House and her country.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Lisa and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

#### EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AND JAPANESE INTERNMENT

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, on February 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order No. 9066, which led to the forced removal and incarceration of over 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry.

My great-grandfather, Seiki Takasato, was one such "issei," "first generation," taken from his home in Puunene, Maui, and sent to Honouliuli on Oahu, Sharp Park in California, and finally ending up at the internment camp in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

It was there that he painted this picture. Guilty of nothing else but being of Japanese descent, internees like my "jiji," "great-grandfather" were stripped of everything they owned—