

Among the society's best public history programs are their historian-led Capitol tours. As former Members of Congress, we have the opportunity to bring visitors into the Capitol. When doing so through the society, you can have the insight of experts who, like no other, can share the institution's history.

For family, friends, or clients, these tours are a special gift that you may now as former Members actually have time for. The president of the society, Jane Campbell, will join us for our coffee reception in H-122. She will be delighted to talk with any of you who are interested in becoming engaged in the society's great work.

Ms. EDWARDS. Thank you, Mrs. Comstock, for this report. More importantly, thank you for your thoughtful and exemplary leadership of this outstanding organization.

The Chair thanks the former Members of the House for your presence here today. On behalf of FMC, I thank the office of the Speaker and congressional staff who have helped make today's presentation possible. You have been terrific, a terrific resource. We very much appreciate all you have done.

The meeting stands adjourned.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NUNN) at noon.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, You and You alone know the plans You have for each one of us, for this body, and for this Nation. In Your mercy, You have promised that what You have designed for us is for our welfare and not for our harm, to give us a future with hope.

We call upon You then and pray to You, trusting in Your divine provision, claiming what You have promised, even when Your will is not always clear to us, even when the problems of the present prevent us from imagining the favorable future You have foretold.

In the concerns and confusions that clutter our lives, we search for You. We seek You with our whole hearts. Lord, let us find You.

Restore to us the fortune of faith: the assuredness, the confidence, and the conviction that is ours when we acknowledge Your divine hand in our lives and Your favor upon us. It is in Your merciful name we dare to 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 Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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.

#### RECOGNIZING BELLEFONTE AREA HIGH SCHOOL'S CONCERT CHOIR AT RADIO CITY MUSIC HALL

(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 to recognize the Bellefonte Area High School's Concert Choir milestone event, performing ahead of the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall.

On Monday, December 16, 32 students from Bellefonte Area High School will take the stage as the opening act for the Rockettes' Radio City Christmas Spectacular in New York City.

The Bellefonte Area High School Concert Choir was selected to participate in Radio City's "Sounds of Christmas Experience," a program that allows groups to apply to perform as openers for the Christmas Spectacular.

For their 5-minute holiday-themed a cappella performance, BAHs will perform two pieces: "Noel Nouvelet," a setting of a French carol, and a vocal jazz setting of "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

Mr. Speaker, the Rockettes' Radio City Christmas Spectacular is a cherished tradition that brings the spirit of Christmas to life for audiences from around the world.

Congratulations to the Bellefonte Area High School Concert Choir for their dedication, hard work, and their contributions to the iconic Christmas Spectacular.

#### SHOES FOR KIDS

(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 the 35th anniversary of a remarkable event in my district. Shoes for Kids began with a simple donation of just 50 pairs of

shoes and has now grown into a movement, making sure no child in Houston faces the challenges of not having shoes to wear.

Mr. Speaker, these shoes are more than just footwear, Mr. Speaker. They protect little feet, yes; but they also boost confidence, support proper posture, and encourage physical activity.

The founder of this event, Yolanda Black Navarro, was a dear friend. Although she is no longer with us, her vision lives on.

By partnering with schools and community centers, Shoes for Kids also addresses critical challenges in children's lives starting, quite literally, from the ground up.

By supporting our children, we are putting the right foot forward, and we are putting children over politics.

#### APPRECIATING JJ JACKSON

(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, I am grateful to recognize 2024 Army Congressional Fellow, Major "JJ" Joshua Jackson, for his service to the country and the Second District of South Carolina.

Throughout his congressional tenure, JJ has been a valued team member working on military and veterans' issues, including today, the NDAA, the National Defense Authorization Act.

As an air defense artillery officer, JJ has held numerous positions with a distinguished career, including tours in valued allies, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. He most recently served the Pentagon as a legislative liaison with the Department of the Army.

A Georgia native, JJ graduated from West Point where he was a starter on the Army football team.

We wish JJ and his young daughters, Amaya and Noah, the best of continued success.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Donald Trump will reinstitute existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

America celebrates its first ally, France, with yesterday the historic 200th anniversary of the address to Congress by the Marquis de Lafayette with his portrait here in the Chamber along with the portrait of George Washington, the only two portraits here in the Chamber.

#### RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF RALEIGH POLICE CHIEF ESTELLA PATTERSON

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the exemplary service of

Raleigh Police Chief Estella Patterson, who recently announced that she will retire next year.

Since Chief Patterson joined the Raleigh Police Department in 2021, I have been proud to have worked with her on many issues. She has led the charge to lower crime rates, address gun violence, recognize mental health issues, and more. Chief Patterson offered vital input on my legislation, the Supporting Women COPS, which would incentivize more women to join law enforcement.

She has continued to prioritize a police force that represents the community it serves. Chief Patterson also led our community through one of its darkest times, the Hedingham shooting that stole five precious lives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chief Patterson for all she has done for our community. I wish her good luck in her retirement and her future endeavors.

#### HONORING HOWARD HAWKS

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible life and legacy of Nebraska's own, Howard Hawks.

Howard was a generational leader who lived the American Dream, co-founding an energy company called Tenaska. Since founding the company in 1987, he helped grow it into one of the largest privately held companies in America.

Mr. Speaker, if you know Howard Hawks, then you know that if he got involved in a project, people in a five-State area knew exactly what was going on, and it would get done.

One of his greatest investments was at the University of Nebraska where he gave both his time and his treasure. He served almost two decades as a regent and helped strengthen our Husker athletic program as a booster.

In recent years, he has provided the lead gift that helped build the University of Nebraska Lincoln Business School. This is just another example of his philanthropic projects that he took on throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, Howard will be missed. Our hearts and prayers go out to Rhonda and the entire Hawks family as we all mourn his loss.

#### RECOGNIZING SHANELLE SCALES- PRESTON

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

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Shanelle Scales-Preston for her decades of service to the House of Representatives.

Shanelle has lived in and served in Contra Costa County in northern California her whole life. Since 2001, she

has worked diligently on behalf of district residents, first for my predecessor, Congressman George Miller, who served in this House for 40 years, and now for my office. As our district director, she has helped lead our efforts in the district to provide outstanding service to our constituents.

Shanelle has also shown unwavering devotion to her hometown of Pittsburg, California, where she resides with her husband, Damon, and their sons, Jaden and Ashton. She has served on the Pittsburg City Council serving as mayor and council member since 2018, working tirelessly to foster a strong and diverse community throughout Pittsburg, California.

Shanelle was chosen by the voters to serve as the next Contra Costa County supervisor for District 5. While I am very sad to see her go from our team, I am confident that in this role she will continue to be an effective and wonderful leader for our community, for our county, and for our country.

It has been a joy to work with Shanelle throughout the years, and I am incredibly grateful and proud for her service.

#### MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

(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 recognize the Cleveland Museum of Natural History ahead of their grand reopening.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural History has been teaching people from all over America about the natural world for more than a century, and it has been a global leader in scientific research, science education, and conservation.

The museum serves over 300,000 people each year, including 30,000 students. The museum's collection encompasses approximately 5 million specimens, and its Natural Areas Program protects more than 12,000 acres of natural habitats in northeast Ohio.

This week's opening of the new 50,000-square-foot expansion of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History will launch a new era for the museum which will share science and the wonders of discovery for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the museum on this momentous occasion, and I look forward to its next century of success.

#### ESCALATING CRISIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN BAN- GLADESH

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

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring awareness of the human rights violations in Bangladesh against the minority Hindus.

Since 1971 when Bangladesh got its freedom from Pakistan, there has been numerous occasions where minority Hindus have been attacked. More recently we have seen a Hindu priest being arrested and his lawyer was murdered.

The crowds of the majority have destroyed Hindu temples, Hindu deities, and Hindus who are practicing their religion in peace. The time has now come for the United States Congress to act and the U.S. Government to act. It is important whether we use humanitarian issues, economic sanctions, every possible tool in our hands needs to be used to ensure that such atrocities in Bangladesh against the Hindus stop right away.

#### ADDRESSING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS

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

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of the bipartisan Disaster Management Costs Modernization Act.

This bill is one pillar of my landmark, comprehensive legislation to address the worsening wildfire crisis. It transforms our fight against wildfires, moving us from our current reactive approach to a proactive plan to prevent mega fires.

For too long, we have been playing catch-up with wildfires instead of preventing them. This bill flips the script, cutting red tape so communities like mine can tap into existing disaster funds before those flames threaten our homes. It means communities can rebuild faster, strengthen their defenses, and avoid devastating losses down the road.

We know wildfire prevention will cost \$6 billion each year, and this proactive approach is more cost effective, and it is the best way to protect our neighbors, keep our firefighters safe, and speed up help when families need it.

The passage of this bill is a major step forward, and I look forward to the full passage of my full wildfire modernization process package as soon as possible now and for the future.

□ 1215

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODES FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill