

the 233rd anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

Yesterday, we celebrated Bill of Rights Day, a day that highlights a cornerstone for our democracy.

Bill of Rights Day was established in 1941, when President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued a proclamation referring to the document as: "The great American charter of personal liberty and human dignity."

Each year, on December 15, this day is used as an opportunity to reflect on the rights enshrined in our Constitution's first 10 amendments. Classrooms across the Nation use this day as an educational opportunity to further stress the importance of these rights to our Nation's young people.

The Bill of Rights was born out of a fierce debate between the Federalists and the anti-Federalists during the founding of our Republic. The Constitution itself laid the foundation for governance, but it was the Bill of Rights that ensured that government would always serve the people.

The Bill of Rights includes some of our Nation's most precious rights, including: freedom of speech, press, religion, assembly, petition, equal protection under the law, and limitations on the role of the Federal Government, just to name a few.

The Bill of Rights also reminds us of something deeper. Our unity as a Nation stems from our diversity of thought, belief, and expression. We may not always agree, but these rights ensure that every voice can be heard, every faith can be practiced, and every dream can be pursued.

This year marked the 233rd anniversary since the ratification of the Bill of Rights. Now, many years later, these rights are just as important as they were when our Founding Fathers penned them.

Let us honor the wisdom of our Founders and the sacrifices of countless Americans who have fought to uphold these freedoms.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BENTZ) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Rear Admiral Gregory Todd, Chief of Chaplains, United States Navy, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Eternal Father, ruler of wind and wave, You establish the heavens and

order all of creation. Behold Your humble people, seeking only to serve and not to be served. Grant all who labor in this House a heart of humble service.

While the U.S. Navy Chaplain Corps celebrates 249 years of a sacred mission of caring for the souls of sailors, marines, coastguardsmen, and their families, we are recently reminded of the relevance of our mission as U.S. sailors in the Red Sea have faced the enemy in combat, wielding the sword for our Nation and facing their own mortality. Grant Your divine protection to all of our ships at sea and all who labor to defend our Nation. Keep their families in Your care while they are deployed, and grant them a joyful, joyful reunion.

Lord, as Navy chaplains seek to care for our flock, by Your mercy, send us more chaplains to fill our ranks. The need is great, but the laborers are few. Grant us more Navy chaplains to care for our Nation's greatest treasure: our sons and daughters.

Into Your divine hands we commit our prayer, trusting in Your divine mercy.

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 New York (Mr. MORELLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORELLE 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.

#### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 14, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit my resignation, effective at 11:59 p.m. December 14, 2024, as United States Representative for the At-Large District of North Dakota.

Sincerely,

KELLY ARMSTRONG,  
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 14, 2024.

Hon. DOUG BURGUM,  
Governor, State of North Dakota,  
Bismarck, ND.

DEAR GOVERNOR BURGUM: I hereby submit my resignation, effective at 11:59 p.m. De-

cember 14, 2024, as United States Representative for the At-Large District of North Dakota. Attached is the letter that I submitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. It has been the honor of my lifetime to represent the great people of North Dakota for the last six years.

Sincerely,

KELLY ARMSTRONG,  
Member of Congress.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. ARMSTRONG), the whole number of the House is 430.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF NITTANY LEATHERNECKS

(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 Nittany Leathernecks' contribution to Christmas throughout the Commonwealth.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment of the Marine Corps League is a community service organization composed of active, retired, and former marines.

Since 1947, the mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program has been to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November, and December each year and to distribute them as Christmas gifts to less-fortunate children in the community.

The Nittany Leathernecks Detachment coordinates Toys for Tots for Centre County. The detachment works with the Centre County Adult Services office, which coordinates with seven Centre County food pantries to identify needy children and distribute toys.

The Nittany Leathernecks campaign annually provides a Christmas gift experience to over 9,000 children.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the selfless marines for their service to our country and their dedication to uplifting our communities. I wish them a merry Christmas.

#### CALLING FOR CONSERVATION OF BERING RIVER COALFIELD

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a piece of property in Alaska. Southeast Alaska is called the Copper River Delta. There is a coalfield there called the Bering River coalfield.

Mr. Speaker, this goes back to Teddy Roosevelt's days as a conservation effort. The United States Government

has an opportunity to purchase the coal rights of this field. I thank the gentleman, Joo Shin, and the KADCO board of directors for staying at the table. The appraisal came in at \$6 million. The Korean owner, Joo Shin, wants \$8 million for the property.

We have an opportunity, and I believe that Members on both sides of the aisle could agree by acclamation with this conservation effort. The United States Government cannot pay more than the appraised value unless we, in Congress, authorize them to do that. The difference is between \$6 million and \$8 million.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, either now or in the future, to help the United States of America set aside the Copper River Delta area, the Bering River coalfield, in perpetuity for this conservation effort.

#### GEORGIANS PROTEST FARCE

(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, the world appreciates the courage of Georgian President, Salome Zourabichvili, standing strong for the people of Georgia, opposing the illegitimate Presidential election Saturday in Tbilisi.

For the first time, the President was not chosen in a national election, but by a vote of the fraudulently elected parliament. Lithuanian Parliamentarian Rasa Juknevičienė observed for the European Parliament that selecting puppet, Mikheil Kavelashvili, was a farce.

Former Georgian Ambassador Natalie Sabanadze condemned Kavelashvili as a puppet of war criminal Putin, who has cosponsored the Russian-devised foreign agent registration law, destroying democracy.

The people of Georgia will prevail over Putin as Putin has lost in Moldova, been rejected in Romania, and is being expelled from Syria.

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

Best wishes for the continued success of Ric Grenell, selected by President Trump to be the presidential envoy for special missions.

#### HONORING ROBERT E. MILSTEAD

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American and a Texan, Robert E. Milstead, who passed away on December 6, just 1 week shy of his 97th birthday.

Mr. Milstead served his country as a career Air Force officer, with over 5,500

flying hours. He later joined First State Bank in Abilene, Texas, and became active in his community.

Mr. Milstead was a proud graduate of the University of Texas, having served as a Silver Spur and a Pi Kappa Alpha president.

He is survived by his loving wife of 74 years, Jane, who he met in college. They raised two incredible sons, retired U.S. Marine Corps Lieutenant General Robert “Boomer” Milstead, Jr., and retired Austin Police Department Officer Randy Milstead.

He is survived by 7 grandchildren, including former communications director, Jimmy Milstead, of my staff; and 20 great grandchildren.

Mr. Milstead lived a full life and was greatly beloved. He will be missed, but his legacy will long endure.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 12, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 12, 2024, at 3:55 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 920.  
That the Senate passed S. 3857.  
That the Senate passed S. 4000.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,  
KEVIN F. McCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, December 13, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 13, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 59.  
That the Senate passed S. 141.  
That the Senate passed S. 2513.  
That the Senate passed S. 2783.  
That the Senate passed S. 2908.  
That the Senate passed S. 4365.  
That the Senate passed S. 4370.  
That the Senate passed S. 5046.

That the Senate passed with amendments H.R. 8663.

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. McCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

#### 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, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

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

#### SECURE HANDLING OF INTERNET ELECTRONIC DONATIONS ACT

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9488) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the disclosure of the card verification value as a condition of the acceptance of online contributions made through the use of credit or debit cards in elections for Federal office and to prohibit the acceptance of contributions made through the use of gift cards and prepaid credit cards in such elections, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9488

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Secure Handling of Internet Electronic Donations Act” or the “SHIELD Act”.

#### SEC. 2. REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF CARD VERIFICATION VALUE AS CONDITION OF ACCEPTANCE OF ONLINE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE USING CREDIT OR DEBIT CARDS IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS.

Section 302 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30102) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j)(1) No political committee shall accept any Internet credit or debit card contribution unless—

“(A) the individual or entity making such contribution is required, at the time such individual makes such contribution, to disclose the card verification value of such credit or debit card; and

“(B)(i) the mailing address of the individual or entity is located in the United States; or

“(ii) in the case of a contribution made by an individual whose mailing address is located outside of the United States, the individual provides the committee with the applicable information described in paragraph (2).

“(2) The applicable information described in this paragraph is as follows:

“(A) In the case of an individual who is a citizen or national of the United States—

“(i) the United States mailing address the individual uses for voter registration purposes;

“(ii) a copy of the individual’s United States passport; or

“(iii) a copy of a comparable acceptable identification document, or the unique identifying number from such a document, for the individual.

“(B) In the case of a contribution made by an individual who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence, as defined by section 101(a)(20) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(20)—

“(i) a copy of the individual’s permanent resident card; or