

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3959.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 58 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1800

### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) at 6 p.m.

### 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 18, 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 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1607.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1727.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 2468.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3324.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4094.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4385.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5770.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6826.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6843.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 7332.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 9566.

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 18, 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 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 1097.

That the Senate passed S. 1144.

That the Senate passed S. 1277.

That the Senate passed S. 1299.

That the Senate passed S. 3022.

That the Senate passed S. 3373.

That the Senate passed S. 3502.

That the Senate passed S. 3543.

That the Senate passed S. 4181.

That the Senate passed S. 4576.

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 18, 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 18, 2024, at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 4654.

That the Senate passed S. 5005.

That the Senate passed S. 5130.

That the Senate passed S. 5398.

That the Senate passed S. 5575.

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 44.

That the Senate agree to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate H.R. 5009.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 663.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Acting Clerk.

### DIRECTING THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO MAKE A CORRECTION IN THE ENROLLMENT OF THE BILL H.R. 5009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 44) directing the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make a correction in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5009, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Alabama?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 44

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That in the enrollment of the bill H.R. 5009, the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall make the following corrections:

(1) In the table of contents in section 2(b), strike the item relating to section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(2) In the table of section 601 regarding basic pay for enlisted members, in the entry relating to a member in pay grade E-5 with over 2 years, strike "3,317.10" and insert "3,466.50".

(3) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 3 years, strike "3,480.90" and insert "3,637.50".

(4) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 4 years, strike "3,638.40" and insert "3,802.20".

(5) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 6 years, strike "3,789.00" and insert "3,959.40".

(6) In such table, in the entry relating to a member in such pay grade with over 8 years, strike "3,984.20" and insert "4,142.40".

(7) In the table of contents preceding section 5701, strike the item relating to section 5705 and insert the following:

Sec. 5705. Readmission requirements for servicemembers.

(8) Strike section 5705 and insert the following:

### SEC. 5705. READMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICEMEMBERS.

Subsection (a) of section 484C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1091c(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) DEFINITION OF SERVICE IN THE UNIFORMED SERVICES.—In this section, the term ‘service in the uniformed services’ means service (whether voluntary or involuntary) on active duty in the Armed Forces, including such service by a member of the National Guard or Reserve.”

(9) Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.”

The concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

December 18, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 1092(b)(2) of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117-263), I am pleased to announce the joint appointment, together with the Majority Leader of the Senate, of the Honorable Filemon Vela of Houston, Texas to serve as a Co-Chairperson of the Commission on the Future of the Navy.

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKHEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I have had the honor and the privilege to represent the northeast San Fernando Valley for 28 years as a State assemblyman, as a city council member, and as a United States Congress Member.

I grew up in a neighborhood where I was told far too often: You are never going to amount to anything. You want to go to college? Don't even try it. Kids like you from your neighborhood never amount to anything.

I heard that countless, countless times, too many times from too many people, but I am here to remind anybody and everybody who has ever experienced that kind of negativity, those kinds of lies, that that is just not true.

I am very proud to say that I grew up in a community of hardworking people, a community that most of the families or most of the children are raised by immigrants in my community, just like me. I was raised by immigrants from Mexico, Andres and Maria Cárdenas, who came to this country not for themselves but for future generations to have a better life, a better life than they were afforded in their hometown of Temastian, Jalisco, Mexico.

I thank the many, many people who have been a positive influence in my life and who have given me support in many different ways.

I first thank the voters of my district who voted to elect me in 1996 to be the first person of color, the first Latino, to ever represent San Fernando Valley in any of our capitals. They elected me to be the State assemblyman for a community that was over 80 percent minority people. In a community where we never had a person of color represent us, they elected me to be the first one.

It was an honor that I didn't take lightly. I took it very seriously. I made sure that my goal wasn't to be the first. My goal was to make sure that I wasn't the last. Again, I thank the voters of the San Fernando Valley who have given me this responsibility and opportunity by voting me into office for over the last 28 years.

I hope and pray that I have done well for all of my constituents. I have tried my best. I have always done my best. I have always listened to them. I have always taken in the issues and tried to interpret them the best that I could to make sure that all of their lives in the San Fernando Valley are better for it.

I thank my parents, Andres and Maria Cárdenas, and my ten brothers

and sisters, for being such positive role models for me, for teaching me how to be good, do good, and give back to our great country and our community.

God is good because God gave me ten older brothers and sisters and two parents until my father passed away, who gave me all the examples I needed, the example of stick to it, the example of making sure that when you have "ganas" "the will power," when you want to get something done, do it, and to always think positive, always be positive, always give to others.

They taught me faith. They taught me how to respect myself and my community. Those are the examples, not my college degrees. Those are the examples that have allowed me to be an effective legislator for the last 28 years, the core building blocks of what it means and what it takes to be the best that you can be, not perfect, but the best that one can be.

I thank the community leaders like teachers and counselors and people who passed through my life and put their arm on my shoulder and said: You can do this. You are good enough. They nurtured me and encouraged me to always do good, to always think positive, to always believe in myself.

Again, to those people who choose to say the opposite of that to young people like I was, to people who grow up in bad neighborhoods—whatever that means—to the sons and daughters of immigrants whose parents don't even speak English, who raised their children here to love this country, to respect this country, and to honor this country; to the people who don't believe in people like me, like the ones that have passed through my life and told me the lies that you can't do this and you can't do that, good always prevails over bad, always.

To young people who have to endure that: I have endured it myself. Don't believe those lies. Believe in yourself. You are better than those who put you down.

I thank the supporters in the community who have volunteered all across our district, who have always been there to help thy neighbors when we were able to get resources out in the community and we needed help in doing so. I thank those community volunteers.

To the supporters in the halls of city hall, in our State capitol, and here in our United States Capitol, I thank you for encouraging me to be myself and to do the best job that I can for our country and for all people.

I have been very blessed to have amazing staff in all of my years in office, 28 years, dozens and dozens of amazing, wonderful people who have a heart for public service, people who put their heart and soul into everything that they do for the people. They are smart, talented, and caring people who have served our community and our country with distinction and honor.

To all of my staff, I thank them for serving. I see them as family and my family sees them as family as well.

I also thank my mother-in-law—yes, my mother-in-law. She loves me like a son. My mother-in-law, who came here as a young immigrant, Elvira Delgado Wagner, and my father-in-law, Jesus Luis Sanchez, and my brothers-in-law, Louie and Robert, to my many brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, and my over 40 nieces and nephews: Without you, our family, my family, my wife, Norma, and our children may not have been able to do this for this long.

I thank all of them for being part of the support system that any and every elected official needs to do this job of public service.

I am eternally grateful to my wife, Norma, and our children, Vanessa, Cristian, Andres, and Alina. You have been so supportive and understanding for the past 28 years, to have that weird life of seeing your father go away for 3 or 4 days at a time to the State capitol, to the United States Capitol, being involved in community meetings and community events, yes, even during your birthdays and our anniversaries. I thank them so much for their understanding and their support and their patience.

□ 1815

I also thank my son-in-law Brian De La Rosa and also our two beautiful grandchildren, Joaquin and Jimena. How blessed I am to be a husband, a father, a grandfather, to have so many beautiful family members that I can count on that have always supported me in a loving, beautiful way.

Next to me is a picture of my wife, Norma, about the time that I met her. You might say, wow, I know why he fell in love with her. The beauty that my wife, Norma, exudes is nowhere near as beautiful as what she has inside. She is so understanding, so supportive, so tolerant of me. We have been married for 32 years, and I am grateful for every day.

Being an elected official is a difficult job. I would say for family members of full-time elected officials like us, Members of Congress, being a family member of an elected official is harder. As elected officials people praise us more than they should perhaps. People laugh at our jokes. People tell us nice things, but our family members don't necessarily receive that praise or that acknowledgment. I am not just speaking for myself; I think I speak for all of us who are elected, who do our job willingly, who do our job as it is supposed to be done with 100 percent of effort.

Let me tell you, you will never hear an elected official say that their family comes first. I have said it, and I mean it. However, when you actually consider who sacrifices the most not having their father, their mother with them, their brother, their sister, their husband, their wife, who is the elected official, what the family endures, I believe, is more.