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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 19, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE THOMPSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, our God, be in our midst, for You alone can change our harsh discourse into pure speech. Cleanse us from our pride, that we would humble ourselves before You, and appear unassuming and unpretentious in Your presence.

Call us to seek refuge and counsel in Your name, to listen for Your divine will, and not rely on our own. For we are not inclined to listen to any voice, even Yours, nor accept Your correction. We fail to trust in Your guidance, nor draw near to You, our God.

But You, O Lord, are righteous. You do no wrong. Every morning You render Your judgment, each dawn without fail.

O Lord, our God, on this morning may we acknowledge that You are with us in this place. So may our actions this day give You reason to be pleased with us.

We call on Your name in this moment and will strive to serve You throughout the day with one accord. As one body of many Members we can find refuge in You together in Your name, in which we pray this day.

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 Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAHOOD 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING WELLSBORO VETERANS OUTPATIENT CLINIC

(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 recognize the Wellsboro veterans outpatient clinic.

Recently, the Wellsboro veterans outpatient clinic in Tioga County reopened after nearly a year of renovations.

Our veterans have faced challenges on the battlefield and, too often, at home when seeking care. Reopening this facility is a step toward elimi-

nating those barriers and providing better access to health services, mental health support, and the resources our veterans need to thrive.

The new state-of-the-art clinic has expanded to provide podiatry, telehealth, and optometry services. Additionally, the clinic will have specialty physicians who travel to Wellsboro.

Having spent nearly 30 years in the healthcare industry, I understand the vital importance of access to quality healthcare in rural communities and have become a strong advocate for increased access, affordability, and quality of care.

Mr. Speaker, our veterans deserve the utmost care, and the Wellsboro VA Clinic can provide essential services for those who fought for our freedoms.

OUR BEST WORK HERE DERIVES FROM COMPROMISE

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

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, now what?

Yesterday, this body was prepared to pass a bipartisan spending bill to carry us into the new year and the new Congress. It was imperfect, yet it met many of our country's critical needs, especially disaster relief.

Then, the agents of chaos descended, including what might just be our newly minted oligarch, Mr. Musk.

Now what? Mr. Speaker, we are about to swear in a new group of Members. It reminds me of my first day in this body when my Republican friend, Mark Kirk, advised me that our best work here derives from compromise.

I can only hope his advice is heeded here today and that we don't sink into "if I don't get all that I want, I will take my ball and go home," or, worse yet, "shut our government down."

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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HONORING THE SERVICE OF LYLE ROCK

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of my friend, Lieutenant Colonel Lyle Rock.

Lyle is a childhood friend of mine, and I have known him for over 50 years. We grew up in the same neighborhood and played hockey together.

Service to our Nation is a proud tradition in the Rock family. Lyle's father honorably served at the 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth, Minnesota, and Lyle followed in his footsteps, joining the Minnesota Air National Guard.

In 2009, Lyle volunteered to deploy to Iraq, where he served as the chief of logistics and Iraqi adviser at the Multi-National Security Transition Command—Iraq. He happened to serve in Iraq at the same time as my wife, Jodi, and even though they served at different locations, it always gave me comfort to know that he was over there with her.

During his career, Lyle has served at both the 148th Fighter Wing and the 133rd Airlift Wing, and he is currently posted at the Joint Force Headquarters, where he works as a director of plans and policy.

At this time, Lyle Rock is the longest serving Air National Guard officer, with 38 years and 11 months under his belt.

I find it especially impressive that throughout his entire service, he has only missed 2 days of drill.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Lieutenant Colonel Lyle Rock my good friend, and the State of Minnesota is proud of his decades of service.

MY SHERO, CONGRESSWOMAN BARBARA LEE

(Ms. KELLY of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send a message to my colleague, my dearest Sigma Gamma Rho sorority sister, and my shero, BARBARA LEE. She will always be an inspiration to me and many others.

When BARBARA LEE started her political career, she couldn't have known that she would become such a role model for so many people, especially Black women. She is an inspiration, and it has been my deepest honor to call her a friend and mentor.

I continue to look up to BARBARA LEE as a strong voice for civil rights, health equity, poverty elimination, and actually so much more. She was the driving force in establishing PEPFAR in 2003, a critical program that has saved over 25 million lives from HIV and AIDS all over the world.

I am honored to carry her legacy into the next Congress to reauthorize PEPFAR, one of the world's most suc-

cessful health programs. We must continue to fund this critical program until we end the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

I thank BARBARA LEE for all the work she has done and all the work she continues to accomplish in the future.

I love you, BARBARA LEE.

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN PATRICK MCHENRY

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend, Congressman, and chairperson of the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee, PATRICK MCHENRY, as he retires from Congress after 20 years of service.

Throughout his time here in Washington, Chairman MCHENRY has been a champion of innovation and always worked to ensure that American capital markets remain the envy of the world.

Chairman MCHENRY has been my personal mentor since I came to Congress, and I can't thank him enough for his counsel and guidance and his two decades of leadership, hard work, and dedication in the financial services space and beyond. His retirement is going to leave enormous shoes to fill and a legacy that will be felt by this institution for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, if it was physically possible to walk in PATRICK's shoes, I would. It has been a pleasure learning from him and serving alongside him. While we will miss having PATRICK here in these Halls, we wish him and his family the very best in the days to come.

RECOGNIZING CHRIS PACHOLEC

(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, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary member of my team who joined our office 1 year ago as a Brookings Congressional Fellow and will, sadly, be returning to his previous role at the Department of Defense in the new year.

Chris Pacholec is a native of New Jersey, which we have forgiven him for. He has now earned the title of honorary Pennsylvanian.

A Renaissance man, Chris brings his joyful spirit, hardworking dedication, banking skills, Legos, and corgi, Dexter, to our office, faithfully and tirelessly serving Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District.

Chris took on the Foreign Affairs Committee work for my office during extraordinarily heavy times. He became an integral part of our legislative team right away, meeting with constituents, advocacy organizations, and fellow Hill staff.

In just under a year, Chris has become a de facto foreign policy expert and a valued member of our team.

We will miss his calm demeanor and wealth of knowledge, along with his infectious, positive attitude.

I speak for my whole team when I say: Thank you, Chris. We are sorry to see you go, and we hope that you will be back soon. Feel free to bring the cupcakes. We wish you the best.

HONORING DALE MURDEN, 2024 TEXAS FARM BUREAU PIONEER AWARD WINNER

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dale Murden, a dedicated leader in south Texas agriculture, for winning the 2024 Texas Farm Bureau Pioneer Award.

As president of the Texas Citrus Mutual, Dale is a steadfast advocate for the State of Texas' citrus industry, championing legislative priorities such as the 1944 water treaty issue, pest and disease management, and leading innovation that strengthens our agricultural community.

Dale's work supports thousands of farmers and helps preserve the rich farming heritage of south Texas.

On behalf of the 15th Congressional District of Texas, I congratulate Dale on this well-deserved recognition, and I thank him for his service to our farmers and to the great State of Texas.

HONORING DONALD MCLEOD

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Donald McLeod, an Orange County airman.

In 1945, Mr. McLeod joined the Army before transferring to the newly created U.S. Air Force.

From the excitement of the Berlin airlift to the isolation of Greenland, Mr. McLeod faithfully served his country at every post.

When he returned to civilian life, Mr. McLeod used his aircraft expertise to land a job with McDonnell Douglas, where he worked for almost 10 years. In 1985, Mr. McLeod retired and began a career with his newly minted wedded wife as a Catholic missionary.

Mr. McLeod retired for a second time in 2010 and currently lives in my district in Anaheim, where he enjoys the events put on by the American Veterans Assistance Group. His dedication to serving others is unmatched, and I am happy that he is enjoying his well-deserved second retirement.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. McLeod for serving his country and for his dedication to our community. He is a valued member of our community.