

Grant us the strength to be careful how we live, not wasting our time on useless work, the barren pursuit of busyness, but may we make the most of every opportunity and the best of this bonus day.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. LESKO 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

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING PAUL ELMSTRAND

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Paul Elmstrand.

Paul, an officer with the Burnsville Police Department, was killed earlier this month in the line of duty alongside Officer Matthew Ruge and firefighter-paramedic Adam Finseth.

Paul lived in Chaska, but his story began in Isanti County. As senior class president and a member of the law enforcement club, he impressed his classmates with his strong character of ethical integrity, his generosity, and his sense of humor.

Among those classmates was his wife, Cindy, who he met in kindergarten and began dating in high school. Together, they shared two children, a 2-year-old and a 5-month-old.

At 27 years old, his life was cut tragically short. Paul, Matthew, and Adam were killed trying to save seven children barricaded in a Burnsville home with an armed man, an act of heroism and sacrifice beyond measure.

We were privileged to have Paul as a member of our community and as a neighbor and a friend. To Cindy and his children and all who loved him, Paul will never be forgotten, nor will Matthew or Adam.

END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we work on fiscal year 2024 appropriation bills, I rise to highlight Federal investments that are improving food security in my home State of Massachusetts.

This month, the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources distributed over \$7 million in Federal funding to local anti-hunger programs like Growing Places in Leominster, the Amherst and Northampton Survival Centers, and Grow Food Northampton.

As a part of this distribution, MDAR is awarding additional State-funded grants to organizations like Together We Eat in my hometown of Worcester to teach kids how to grow food using repurposed shipping containers, and to Just Roots, an incredible nonprofit community farm in Greenfield.

I am grateful to the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Agriculture Commissioner Randle, and Deputy Commissioner Pitcoff for prioritizing food security in the Bay State.

I am proud to advocate for robust funding for these grant programs, which are an example of how leveraging Federal and State dollars can support innovative work to improve food security.

I urge my colleagues to join me so that we can continue fighting to end hunger now.

STUDENT LOAN BAILOUT

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last summer, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled against President Biden's student loan handout plan, totaling more than \$400 billion.

The High Court determined that taking on that kind of debt, spending that much money, must be approved by Congress.

Despite this, we have seen the administration abuse whatever regulatory lever it can find, every executive action they can think up, to do it anyway.

Unfortunately, it is working. In recent months, tens of billions of dollars in borrowed money are no longer due for payment.

Let's be clear. Student loan debt can't be forgiven. It is simply being transferred to the American taxpayers, regardless of whether they went to college themselves or if they did the right thing and paid their own debt off.

I urge the White House to end this cycle of adding billions to our debt with the stroke of a pen. We are already an unprecedented \$34.2 trillion in the hole.

ENSURING HEALTHCARE RIGHTS OF WOMEN

(Ms. BARRAGÁN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, while they once again push us to the brink of a government shutdown, extreme MAGA Republicans are attacking our freedoms and pushing to ban in vitro fertilization, or IVF.

We have seen the devastating consequences of the Republican march toward a nationwide abortion ban on display in Alabama where extreme Republican-appointed judges have issued a ruling that prevents women from accessing IVF.

House Democrats believe women and their families should be allowed to make these personal decisions about when to have children.

Republicans claim to support IVF, but Americans should look at their actions, not their words. Led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, most House Republicans are sponsoring a bill that would threaten IVF nationwide and criminalize reproductive healthcare for women.

Republicans have appointed judges to overturn reproductive freedoms for women. This week, Senate Republicans blocked a bill that would protect IVF nationwide.

House Democrats are united to ensure that women, not politicians, can make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

(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, since Biden took office, over 10 million illegal aliens have entered America with over 340 on the terrorist watch list. Dangerously, this includes thousands of military-age young men from dictatorships.

Last month, I joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON at Eagle Pass, Texas, and witnessed the madness. It is intentional irresponsibility thinking potential mass murderers will be low-information voters for a permanent one-party Democrat Big Government as criminals murder more Americans across our streets. Biden continues falsely to blame others, but he has the ability to protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

I point out that war criminal Putin will face trial for the assassination of Alexei Navalny. His widow, Yulia, is a hero for the oppressed people of Russia.

HONORING CHARLES BLOCKSON

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of Charles Blockson, a native of Norristown, Pennsylvania, who dedicated his life to the preservation of African-American history.

A prolific writer, collector, historian, and activist, Mr. Blockson authored 13 books and was a leading expert on the Underground Railroad.

Charles Blockson dedicated his life and career to traveling and acquiring rare documents, publications, and photos to explore and expand the study of the Black American experience.

He donated his remarkable collection to Temple University in 1984. Today, the world-renowned Blockson Collection houses more than 700,000 items relating to the global Black experience, serving as a resource not just for Temple students and faculty but for the Philadelphia community and beyond.

An exhibition documenting Mr. Blockson's life's work can also be seen at the Centre Theater in his hometown of Norristown.

Charles Blockson passed away last summer. As a tribute to his tremendous legacy, I am proud to join my colleagues MADELEINE DEAN and DWIGHT EVANS to introduce a bill designating his hometown post office in Norristown as the Charles L. Blockson Post Office.

REMEMBERING LAKEN RILEY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, what is it going to take to get people in this country on both sides of the aisle to understand that the Biden border crisis is killing people?

Laken Riley was a 22-year-old nursing student whose life was taken by an illegal immigrant, not a migrant. I hear this word "migrant" used all the time. This is a misnomer, trying to brush it under the rug. These aren't migrants; there is an illegal immigrant invasion of this country.

Earlier this week, another 2-year-old boy in Maryland was murdered by an illegal immigrant, not a migrant.

President Biden is down there in Texas pretending to do something about the border now in Brownsville. This is not a problem area like Eagle Pass, but a quieter area currently.

He is yelling at Republicans and saying: Well, you are not doing anything about the border. Well, his first day in office, he reversed all of President Trump's policies that were helping keep the border in check.

All these eight items on this list he could do by executive order. He could sign with a pen and do a legal constitutional executive action immediately.

Instead, he wants to blame Republicans or somebody else for the policies

he invoked on day one that have put us where we are.

Instead, he wants to sue the State of Texas because they say their State is being invaded, and they have laws at the State level to stop invasions. He is suing them to get rid of their razor wire measures along the border. What a joke.

CELEBRATING BLANCHE VANDER BENT'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the birthday of a beloved constituent, Blanche Vander Bent, who turned 100 years old this month.

Blanche Vander Bent's life has been one of service: to God, to her family, and to others. Blanche is a distinguished matriarch, a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother.

She has a servant's heart and has spent countless hours volunteering at schools and food programs throughout west Michigan.

Blanche's commitment to service didn't just stop in west Michigan, though, as she and her husband volunteered throughout their life in disaster relief efforts all across the country, lending a hand to those whose lives had been upended.

Blanche defines what it means to put her faith into action, and I couldn't be more thrilled to celebrate her today.

A very happy birthday, Blanche.

HONORING DR. PETER PINGERELLI

(Mrs. LESKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Arizonan whose passion for Arizona's education has left a lasting impact that will be felt for years to come.

Thanks to Dr. Peter Pingerelli, thousands of young Arizonans were able to receive a high-quality education, cultivating their skills in order to achieve their goals.

As a member of the West-MEC governing board and a professor at Grand Canyon University, Dr. Pingerelli was deeply passionate about education in Arizona.

Dr. Pingerelli's impact on education in Arizona cannot be overstated. He was a great friend, father, loving husband to State Representative Beverly Pingerelli, energetic educator, and valued community member. He will be dearly missed by everyone who had the privilege to know him.

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RUSSIAN INVASION OF UKRAINE

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, on the second anniversary of Russia's invasion, I reaffirm America's steadfast support of Ukraine.

This is not merely a gesture of international solidarity. It is a strategic imperative of the U.S. Our commitment to Ukraine extends beyond the defense of global freedom and democracy. It is fundamentally aligned with America's national interests.

With an investment of less than 5 percent of our defense budget, we have catalyzed a significant shift in the balance of power, crippled over half of Russian military forces, fortified Europe's stability and prosperity, protected our NATO allies, and ensured the stability of global food prices and supplies.

Let me be clear: A stable, democratic Europe is not just beneficial but essential to America's economy, food security, and national defense. The battlefields of Ukraine are the front lines of our freedom itself, and their struggle is our struggle.

As the deadline looms for Federal funding, House Democrats have consistently extended bipartisanship to ensure our government remains open and our national security protected.

The time for decisive action is now.

HONORING DANIEL AVEGALIO AS VETERAN OF THE MONTH

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

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor our Veteran of the Month, Daniel Avegalio, a marine who served bravely in Operation Iraqi Freedom not once but three times. Daniel's dedication to our country is a testament to the spirit of American service.

From Pettis County, Daniel has not only served his country in uniform but continues to serve by guiding fellow veterans in their life after the military. His commitment shines through his work with the Sedalia Military Affairs Committee and his educational leadership as a George W. Bush Presidential Center Scholar.

Today, he furthers his impact with Western Governors University, helping military members transition to civilian life.

Daniel represents the best of us, the best of America. His sacrifice and ongoing commitment to his fellow servicemen and -women exemplify the enduring American values of loyalty, service, and community, for which I thank Daniel.

CHEERING FOR PARKER BYRD ON HIS RETURN TO BASEBALL

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