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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Dr. Michael Gossett, Green Acres Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You today and acknowledge that You alone are the King of kings and Lord of lords. You alone are sovereign over the nations and the peoples of the Earth.

As Psalm 24:1 declares: "The Earth and everything in it; the world and its inhabitants belong to the Lord."

You alone, Lord, have ordained each government official to serve, and we ask that You raise up leaders and call each Representative to lead with justice and wisdom and humility.

We ask Your blessings on each Member here and the families and people they represent.

I pray that You would grant each Representative clarity of mind, integrity of heart, and a deep concern for truth and righteousness according to Your Word.

I pray there would be no fear among them except a fear of the Lord. May they seek the good of people and the flourishing for all, especially the most vulnerable. Please remind us today, Lord, that our hope alone is in Your Son, Jesus Christ.

We pray all this in the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and coming King.

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 Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MCGARVEY 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.

WELCOMING GUEST CHAPLAIN DR. MICHAEL GOSSETT

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to introduce Dr. Michael Gossett, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas, to the United States House of Representatives to serve as the guest chaplain this week and offer a prayer this morning.

Dr. Gossett and his wife, Katie, lead the largest congregation of believers in east Texas. They also proudly shepherd a flock of four wonderful children at home.

Pastor Michael, as he is known, and Katie are passionate about their call to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are personable and approachable in their style, showing the same love and grace as our risen Lord and Savior.

Having been a firefighter for 5 years before entering full-time ministry, this Liberty University alum is tough-minded, disciplined, and steady in his leadership. He is authentic and genuine and always faithful to preach the truth of the inherent Word of God. Because of that, he has been a strong and effective leader for Green Acres since he arrived in 2019.

I am proud to call him my friend and proud that he dedicated his life to being salt and light in this lost and dark world.

To God be the glory for the great things He is doing through the Gossetts and Green Acres Baptist Church in Tyler, Texas. We welcome Pastor Gossett.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA'S ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, the March jobs report shows that 228,000 jobs were added last month, far exceeding expectations. Private-sector growth led the way with 209,000 new jobs, nearly double the pre-election average. Wages are rising with hourly earnings up nearly 4 percent over the past year.

Government job dependence is shrinking with only 42 percent of new jobs in government-related sectors, down from nearly 75 percent under the Biden administration. Federal employment dropped by 4,000 as the administration cuts government bloat.

In the 365-day period from the day President Trump was elected, there was a deficit of \$2.2 trillion. In the 365 days previous to right now, it is only a deficit of \$1.6 trillion. We have a long way to go, but it is a giant improvement.

Construction jobs remain strong, and industrial production is hitting a record high. Manufacturing output has grown nearly 1 percent over the month. Auto production has surged 8.57 percent, and core CPI inflation is at a 4-year low, easing pressure on consumers.

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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America's economy is back.

STOPPING SENSELESS GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago today, the blast of an AR-15 shattered a beautiful spring morning in Louisville as a lone gunman walked into Old National Bank on Main Street and opened fire. We lost Josh Barrick, Deana Eckert, Juliana Farmer, Jim Tutt, and my friend, Tommy Elliot. Five friends, neighbors, and loved one were taken too soon.

Among the eight wounded was Officer Nick Wilt. Just 10 days out of the academy, he bravely ran toward the gunman and was shot in the head. Miraculously, he survived. That same day, just blocks away at JCTC, two people were shot, and Chea'von Moore was killed at just 24 years old.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here today as a lifelong Louisvillian, still sad my community joined the long list of cities devastated by mass shootings. On behalf of all of our communities, we can and must do more to stop senseless gun violence.

CELEBRATING THE BUCKEYES' SEASON

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

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor The Ohio State University Buckeyes whose remarkable victory in the 2025 College Football Playoff National Championship cements their legacy as one of the greatest teams in college football history.

As those of us who watched the game, many of us on the edge of our seats, can attest, the championship is up for grabs until the clock runs out. However, we would be remiss not to mention the Buckeyes' impressive overall season, where they secured wins over five different top five opponents. This is something that has never been accomplished before.

This season the Buckeyes boasted exceptional talent, strong coaching, and die-hard fans. Woody Hayes once said that success is what you do with what you have got. This season, OSU was undeniable. As a fellow Buckeye, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team and coaching staff for this incredible achievement.

MOVING JUSTICE FORWARD

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

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, every day nearly half a million Americans sit in

local jails without a conviction, overwhelmingly for nonviolent, low-level offenses. They are not there because they have been found guilty but because they can't afford bail or are stuck waiting for their day in court. While they wait, taxpayers pay the price.

That is why I have introduced the Justice Forward Agenda, a target, results-driven plan to reduce crime and use taxpayer dollars more wisely. The Community First Pretrial Reform and Jail Decarceration Act helps local jurisdictions cut unnecessary pretrial detention and expand proven alternatives.

The DART Act builds off my work as a St. Louis County prosecutor by giving law enforcement better tools like diversion programs and mental health courts to connect people with treatment, housing, and support that actually stops the cycle of incarceration.

This isn't leniency. It is strategy. It is about investing in what works, in what has proven effective, and building safer, stronger communities.

Mr. Speaker, let's move justice forward.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FORT BEND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTY DAVID FONTENOT

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to a good friend, Fort Bend County Sheriff's Deputy David Fontenot.

David was a dedicated law enforcement officer with over 30 years of service, 26 of those years with the Fort Bend County Sheriff's Office.

David and I worked many long days, serving and protecting our community. David loved serving his community. He was not only a great sheriff's deputy but he was also a great friend. He was a man that I could depend on and a true professional.

I am saddened to say that on March 29, my friend, David, passed away after a battle with cancer. My prayers are with his family and loved ones, especially his sister, Camile, and his brothers, Chuck, Michael, and Stephen. We love them.

Mr. Speaker, I and the entire law enforcement community of Fort Bend County, Texas, will miss him dearly. God bless him.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, April 19 will mark 30 years since the deadliest act of domestic terrorism in the United States, when 168 innocent lives were taken on that quiet morning in Oklahoma City.

As many as 750 people were hurt, and thousands more were scarred by trauma. The main perpetrator was radicalized by extreme hate toward the Federal Government. He was quickly captured, convicted, and put to death for his crimes.

Today, we think of the toddlers at the Murrah building's daycare center who would be in their thirties today. We pray for their moms and their dads, but we must also pray for our country again. The rise in political tribalism and the hate for others must stop. Our faith in this government must never be diminished in any way that turns to hate and violence.

American author Napoleon Hill wrote that "Every adversity, every failure, and every heartache carries a seed of an equal or greater benefit." May we never forget those words.

□ 0915

CONGRATULATING GREENFIELD-CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE INDIANA STATE ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. SHREVE. Mr. Speaker, the robotics industry is quietly reshaping the manufacturing and distribution economies of Indiana and our world.

I rise today to congratulate a team of extraordinary young students at Greenfield-Central High School back home in my district for their winning performance at our Indiana State robotics competition.

Greenfield-Central's team surpassed 62 other terrific Hoosier teams to claim top honors. Coach Jason led The Exothermics, Greenfield Central's team, comprised of juniors Simon, Hayley, and Brayden.

These talented young Hoosiers will again showcase their talents at VEX World competition in Dallas later this year. These students exemplify the best of the next generation of innovators, engineers, and scientists. Their work underscores the importance of a STEM education.

Many Hoosiers have celebrated victories on basketball courts, and I am proud to take this opportunity to spotlight these victories of our young Hoosiers in robotics innovation. Their talented minds will reshape our economy.

TARIFFS

(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, in just 2 days, Wall Street lost \$6 trillion in value in the worst selloff since 2020. Many of my constituents lost tens of thousands of dollars, money saved over decades.

Now we are all scrambling with the news of a 90-day pause on tariffs after