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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 21, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

DELIVERING ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROMISES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Trump was inaugurated for his second term as President. Now, it is time for us to deliver on his promises.

The American people overwhelmingly supported President Trump's candidacy, a candidacy that was built on restoring the American Dream,

strengthening our national security, and making America once again energy dominant.

I have no doubt that President Trump will continue to do the work that we have already started right here in the House of Representatives to Make America Great Again. The golden age of America does start right now.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POLICIES RESONATE WITH AMERICANS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, after the inauguration, President Trump shared his plans for the American people.

During his speech, the President made it clear that the days of a weak America are over, and now, we will return to being that shining city on a hill. The policies that President Trump laid out in his speech resonate with the American people.

More than his policies, his message resonates with Americans throughout this great land. It is a message of strength on the international stage, a message of dominance in the production of energy, and a message of safety on our city streets.

President Trump's speech is why the American people overwhelmingly returned him to the White House.

LAYING OUT NEW VISION FOR NATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has laid out a vision for our Nation over the past few months, from the campaign trail to his first day back in office, a vision that he took action on immediately after being sworn in by signing numerous executive orders to secure our border, lower costs for the American public, and drain the swamp.

President Trump also shared his support for ending California's out-of-touch electric vehicle mandate. I strongly support this action and look forward to working with President Trump to pass my legislation, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, to protect the individual con-

sumer's right to drive the type of vehicle that they want.

PRESERVING LIFE AT ALL STAGES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, thousands of pro-life advocates will be coming to Washington for the annual March for Life this week. Like these fierce advocates, I firmly believe that all life is worth protecting.

This week, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 21, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This important piece of legislation will require medical attention for children who survive botched abortions and impose strong penalties for those who do not comply.

Life is truly a gift from God, and I will always work to preserve the sanctity of human life.

HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIE RIDDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again to honor the lifetime contributions of Marie Ridder to Virginia and the Nation.

Marie, a distinguished journalist and one of the most passionate conservationists I have known, will celebrate her 100th birthday next Monday, January 27.

Marie Ridder began her career as a journalist covering the reconstruction of post-World War II Europe, writing for the Philadelphia Bulletin. Over the next few years, she wrote for The Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and Knight Ridder publications. Not just a writer, Marie edited for Vogue, Glamour, Mademoiselle, and Conde Nast magazines.

I became close with Marie when she hosted my first-ever political event more than 37 years ago. When everyone else was skeptical, including my own family, Marie believed in me. Over the

□ 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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years, Megan and I have visited Marie's home myriad times, always surrounded by the most interesting people. It was there I first met and heard Dr. Howard Dean, perhaps the strongest voice against our invasion of Iraq and for healthcare for all Americans.

Marie is passionate about saving our landscapes and our environment. She has been the champion of the Piedmont Environmental Council for decades and led the successful fight against the 1990s Disney effort to blanket the Virginia Piedmont with houses. She has served on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters and the Trust for Public Land.

Maria is a master gardener, working in her garden high above the Potomac River in McLean. It was there that she was first bitten by a copperhead snake and rushed to Sibley Hospital for the antivenom. When she was struck again by a copperhead a few years later, the emergency room doctor noted that he had only treated two snake bites in his career. Both were on Ms. Ridder.

It will come as no surprise that he was yet again the attending physician on her third snake bite. This is the same garden where Marie or her gardener—it is not clear who—killed an invasive deer with a bow and arrow. I do my best to avoid that garden.

Marie's public service history is both remarkable and intriguing. She was deputy national director of Head Start, where she also served as the direct liaison for First Lady Lady Bird Johnson for 4 years. Later, she led the Sasha Bruce House, a compassionate home for the lost children of our Capital City—the abused, abandoned, neglected, and runaways.

Marie has won many awards in her fight for democracy. In 2019, I was privileged to honor her with the Clara Mortenson Beyer Women and Children First Award for her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to empowering women.

Megan and I are most fortunate to count Marie Ridder as our beloved friend. America is the longtime beneficiary of her creativity, energy, and tireless commitment to others.

When you earn her trust, Marie will even tell you about her date with the bachelor John F. Kennedy.

HONORING TIM BAUER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Timothy "Tim" Cliff Bauer, of Winnie, Texas, who passed away at his home on December 19, 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Tim was born to Patricia and Leroy Bauer on September 13, 1951, in Beaumont, Texas. He grew up in the Winnie-Stowell community and was a devoted member of Grace Methodist Church.

While attending East Chambers High School, he met the love of his life,

Vicki Cuniff. After graduation, Tim attended Texas A & M University, earning his bachelor of science in agronomy in 1973. He married Vicki during his senior year, and they returned to Winnie, where Tim farmed rice and raised Red Angus cattle.

In 1998, Tim and Vicki moved to the original Bauer Ranch homestead and lovingly restored it, going to great lengths to preserve its wonderful history and significance to the local agricultural community.

Tim founded Texas Financial in 2002 and revived the Bauer Ranch's cattle operation in 2011. He created the F1 Braford herd. He retired from his financial advisement business in 2015 but continued to ranch for another 7 years.

In 2023, Tim and Vicki moved to Kerrville, Texas, where he enjoyed the golden years of his life.

Tim was a man of conviction, stewardship, and passion. He held leadership roles in many organizations and was very well known for his love of hunting, fishing, and Western art.

Tim will be remembered for his sincere adoration for his family, unwavering faith, and steadfast presence. He was a true cowboy, a man's man, and tough as a boot. I am incredibly proud to have called him my friend.

May the Lord bless his memory and his wonderful family. We will all miss him.

Farewell, Tim.

CALLING FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY AID WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart for the thousands of California families who have been devastated by the recent wildfires in and around the Los Angeles area.

Homes have been burned to the ground. Lives have been lost. Family pets are gone. Precious family photos and sentimental belongings have been charred, damaged, and, in many cases, totally destroyed.

The fires didn't just destroy personal possessions. The fires took away the safe place we gather with family and call home, and it took out entire communities.

What I saw, what I witnessed on my tours of the fire-damaged areas, was heartbreaking, devastating, just unreal. It was like being in a war zone. There was a smell of burnt trees and homes, with smoke still in the air, as firefighters continue to put out smoldering fires. The ash irritates your eyes.

What was equally heartbreaking was the evidence of a desperate panic to evacuate, shown by the abandoned cars left in the middle of the streets, many charred, as I imagine people started to run to safety.

Yet, I also saw our brave firefighters. I say thank you to them and our first

responders for being on the front lines and for all that they are doing.

There will be a long road to recovery. We must stand with our neighbors, with our friends, with humankind. It is the right thing to do. It is the compassionate thing to do. It is what we have done repeatedly when communities face natural disasters.

It does not matter if you are in Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, or California. When our communities suffer, we must pull together as one to help communities with the aid they need to rebuild.

When hurricanes hit Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina over the years, we didn't say, "Don't send aid because of politics." When the Speaker's home State of Louisiana suffered losses and devastation, we didn't say, "Let's attach strings to the aid."

We don't do that because, above all, we help our fellow Americans. We don't turn tragic situations caused by natural disasters into political fights. Let's not start now.

I implore my colleagues to put politics aside, to love thy neighbor as yourself, to support a bipartisan recovery effort with no strings attached that builds a safer, more resilient future for our communities harmed by the wildfires.

RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, President Trump wasted no time in addressing California's water crisis by signing the memorandum titled "Putting People Over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California."

We are very pleased with the President's strong actions on that and many fronts yesterday. We look forward to working with his administration on that.

Now, it did say "southern California." As a Representative of northern California, I was like, what are you doing, Doug? We want people to understand that, due to stories like this—this is Lake Shasta up in Shasta County, just north of Redding. It holds 4½ million acre-feet of water when full. It is part of the Federal project known as the CVP, the Central Valley Project, built in the 1930s.

□ 1215

We have an opportunity to raise it 18 feet, add 600,000 more—that is a different story for a different day right now—as well as the other projects we have around the State that hold a lot of water; Lake Oroville, right near my home, 3½ million acre-feet.

The President wanting to have water that is already available, useful for other Californians, instead of being lost or not stored to begin with, I appreciate that directive. You know