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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Reverend Neil Stewart, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Our ever-blessed and eternal Father, You are very great. You are clothed with splendor and majesty. You cover yourself with light as with a garment. You give wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who seek understanding. You remove kings. You set up kings. You reveal deep and hidden things to those whose hearts belong to You.

We come to You this morning in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the Earth.

We ask You to forgive us our iniquities, our transgressions, and our sins, for Jesus' sake.

We ask You to guide our President, this Congress, and the Supreme Court of the United States. Grant them wisdom, integrity, and courage to pursue what is good and just, and to serve with humility and strength. Watch over America's many servants in harm's way this day. Watch over their going out and their coming in and bring them home safe, we pray.

We offer these prayers this morning in the name of Jesus Christ.

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 Indiana (Mr. SHREVE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SHREVE 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 DR. NEIL C. STEWART

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am very grateful to welcome Dr. Neil Stewart, senior minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Columbia, South Carolina, as the guest chaplain today to the United States House of Representatives.

First Presbyterian Church in Columbia is the largest Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in the world, founded in 1795.

His ministry is so meaningful to me as our family has attended First Presbyterian Church for six generations, sitting on the same pew.

It is also the churchyard of the graves of the parents of President Woodrow Wilson. This was the boyhood church of President Woodrow Wilson. Also in the churchyard is the grave of Ann Pamela Cunningham, who, in 1854, founded the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association to save Mount Vernon from destruction.

Dr. Stewart grew up in Northern Ireland—obviously, you can tell from his not South Carolina accent—and has studied medicine at Queen's University Belfast and was awarded the Ulster Hospital Gold Medal for his studies in medicine, general and orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, obstetrics, and gynecology.

Dr. Stewart later moved to Jackson, Mississippi, after feeling a desire to grow in his faith. He graduated with a master of divinity from the Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson in 2002.

I appreciate his wife, Catherine, who is here today. Additionally, with his six children, they now reside in the midlands of South Carolina, and we are blessed to have them choose South Carolina as their home.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING VETERAN GLENN HOFFNER

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

Mr. McDOWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary North Carolinian, Mr. Glenn Hoffner of Salisbury, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Mr. Hoffner proudly served our Nation in World War II with distinction.

After the war, he came home, raised a family, and spent his life working hard and giving back to his community.

The local VFW Post 3006 held a celebration recognizing not only the rare achievement of a century well lived but also a legacy of heroism in defense of our liberties.

It was an outpouring of gratitude for a man who truly embodies service and sacrifice. The Greatest Generation continues to inspire those who follow.

With red, white, and blue flowing through Mr. Hoffner's veins, his life reminds us of the values that America stands for.

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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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Mr. Speaker, on behalf of North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District, I thank Glenn Hoffner for his service. It is an honor to represent a true hero.

RECOGNIZING TOM KIESLA

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate my good friend, Tom Kiesla, who is retiring from a long career in the City of Orange.

Tom started in 1986 as a reserve police officer with the Orange Police Department. He worked his way up to officer, sergeant, lieutenant, and then chief of police.

Tom retired from the Orange Police Department in 2021 and was then appointed to become the interim city manager for the City of Orange. Under his leadership, the city's economy boomed and community outreach grew.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Tom for always being there for the citizens, for the community of the City of Orange. I congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement, and I look forward to seeing the next chapter in his life.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Tom.

HOOSIER HEARTLAND TOUR

(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, I rise to offer an epilogue on my just-completed Hoosier Heartland Tour across Indiana's Sixth District.

I participated in 45 events. I engaged meaningfully with 1,800 Hoosiers. I reported back on my work in Congress. I listened to their concerns and priorities.

I met with leaders in our communities, including our Governor, to discuss how our Federal policies affect their lives. Together, we explored opportunities to deliver more for all Hoosiers.

I visited hardworking families, farmers, local businessowners, and the employees who make them go. I discussed our passage of the working families tax cuts. This bill, now law, allows Hoosiers to avoid perhaps the largest tax hike in our history. It offers tax predictability that encourages investment in Indiana's economy and a pathway to quickened economic growth.

My tour fostered conversations that will guide my work throughout the fall here in Congress. I return more committed than ever to advocate for Indiana's priorities and ensuring that our voices are represented in this Chamber.

□ 0910

CONGRATULATING BURBANK AMERICAN LITTLE LEAGUE

(Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to celebrate Burbank American Little League, a beloved youth organization in my district which started in 1954 and currently serves 350 kids, ages 4 through 16.

As a lifelong baseball fan, I love watching these young players take the field with determination and energy. Just this summer, the minor league division, the 10-year-olds, made it to the State tournament, while the senior team won the fourth consecutive Central Region Tournament, something no other team has done before, and went on to represent our State in the Little League Senior League Baseball World Series.

Through every hard day of practice under the Sun, these young athletes build character and grow into independent adults.

Congratulations to the Burbank American Little League for their hard work. I look forward to many more seasons of teamwork and, of course, playing ball.

HONORING GORHAM HEROES

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

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the courageous first responders in Gorham, New York, who battled the devastating warehouse fire that put the entire community at risk. These men and women, many of them volunteers, stepped forward without hesitation, placing themselves in danger so that others could be safe.

Some came from neighboring towns to lend support, demonstrating that in New York's 24th district, we are united by a deep sense of duty and sacrifice.

Our volunteer fire departments are a powerful reminder that service is not confined to one community or one moment. Time and again, these men and women show us what it means to rush toward danger when others turn away. Their actions during this fire reflect the very best of who we are.

To every firefighter, first responder, and volunteer who sustained these efforts by bringing food and water, I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation. This Congress honors their courage and devotion.

RECOGNIZING SERGEANT MAJOR TROY BLACK

(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, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Major Troy Black as he retires from a distinguished 37-year career in defense of our Nation.

Sergeant Major Black was born and raised in Louisville, Kentucky, before

joining the Marine Corps in 1988, rising to become the 19th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, the highest-ranking enlisted Marine.

In 2010, he earned a Bronze Star with Combat V after running through dangerous territory to reach a fellow Marine who had been struck by an IED.

He most recently served as the senior enlisted adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the highest ranking enlisted position in all of our Armed Forces.

On behalf of all Kentuckians, we thank Sergeant Major Black for his bravery, his patriotism, and his service. He has made Louisville and our entire country proud.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JAKE LARSON

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

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jake Larson, a World War II veteran and a beloved social media star who recently passed away at the age of 102.

Jake was born and raised in Owatonna, Minnesota, and was truly a hero to our Nation. In 1938, at the age of 15, though he may have said he was 18, he enlisted in the National Guard. Mr. Speaker, 4 years later he was sent overseas to Northern Ireland where he served as an operations sergeant, eventually assisting in the planning of the D-day invasion.

On June 6, 1944, Jake was among the brave and selfless heroes who stormed the beaches of Normandy, surviving relentless enemy bombardment and machine gun fire before ultimately pushing the Nazi forces off of Omaha Beach. Months later, he would go on to take part in the Battle of the Bulge, earning two medals for his service.

Later in life, "Papa Jake" was introduced to social media by his granddaughter, McKaela, where he shared stories of his experiences overseas during the war. His humor, humility, and heroism captured the hearts of millions, inspiring younger generations of Americans.

I have no doubt that Jake's legacy will live on through all those he impacted, both in person and through his videos. He was a courageous veteran, an inspiring storyteller, and, most importantly, a friend to all. He will truly be missed.

May he rest in peace.

RESTORING LIFESAVING FOOD AID

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise for the 36th time to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for starving children around the world.