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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Rev. Elliott J. Powell, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign and gracious God, we give You thanks for the United States of America as it marks 250 years of democratic life.

Thank You for the privilege of self-governance, government of the people, by the people, and for the people, and for those called to serve within this Chamber on behalf of the Nation.

Your Word declares:

"There is no authority except from God, and those authorities that exist have been established by God."

As You have established these men and women in service, equip them, I pray, with all they need. Bestow upon them clarity and courage, conviction and civility.

Be their strength in a time of uncommon burdens. Be their shield in a season too often shadowed by politically motivated violence, and may it be that the fruit of their labors is the flourishing of all people across this great Nation.

All this I pray in the strong and saving 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 gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas 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 REV. ELLIOTT J. POWELL

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. ARRINGTON of Texas was recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor and delight to hear the familiar voice of my pastor, Elliott Powell, opening up the people's House with prayer, a tradition that began at the very first Congress in 1789.

Reverend Powell is the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Lubbock, Texas, USA. He is joined today in the Chamber gallery by his wife, Shannon Aycock Powell, and their three children: Lila, Karissa, and Adam; and his niece, Chloe.

My wife, Anne, and I have been blessed beyond measure to be a part of the Westminster community, and we are exceedingly grateful for the prayers, support, and friendship of our fellow parishioners.

Mr. Speaker, the 19-century French philosopher, Alexis de Tocqueville, traveled across the United States in the early 1800s in search of what he said was "America's genius and greatness." He said that it wasn't in the commodious harbors or the fertile fields, not the public schools or institutions of higher learning, not the democratic Congress even, or our matchless Constitution, believe it or not.

He said that it wasn't until I entered into the churches of America and with their pulpits aflame with the Gospel of Jesus that I understood "the secret of her genius and power."

That is when he coined that famous phrase: "America is great because America is good."

Mr. Speaker, may God continue to bless America through the goodness of His church and His many faithful under-shepherds like my dear friend, Elliott Powell.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

NATIONAL POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY

(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, today is National POW/MIA Recognition Day, a day to remember the brave men and women who served their country and have not returned home.

Currently, there are more than 80,000 American servicemembers who are still missing and remain unaccounted for from World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Cold War, and the Gulf wars.

Our servicemembers answered the call to protect and defend our country in times of war and in times of peace. We have a sacred compact with the men and women who serve, and we will never stop searching for the ones who remain missing and unaccounted for until they are returned to their loved ones.

That is why today I reintroduced a resolution that urges our trading partners to aid in the search and recovery efforts of our Nation's missing servicemembers.

Mr. Speaker, we will never stop searching until all our servicemembers are brought home. They and their loved ones deserve no less.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

□ 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 LIFE OF THE HONORABLE GLADYS TONEY BRANSFORD

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Gladys Toney Branford.

Gladys was born in the Jim Crow South in Madison County, Alabama. To grow up in that era and go on to serve as a judge is truly remarkable.

In 1986, then-Mayor Kathy Whitmire appointed her to the bench in Houston, and I had the profound honor of swearing her in.

She was a great judge, Mr. Speaker, tough and fair, and always giving everyone a full hearing in their day in court.

She built shores of sisterhood as a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta and through her decades in The Links, Incorporated.

Above it all, Judge Branford often said that her greatest joy was her family: three accomplished children and six beautiful grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Judge Branford was a friend and a dear colleague, and it is especially an honor for me to be able to lift her life here today and on the floor of the United States Congress.

HONORING DR. STEVE HURTE OF TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IN ANDERSON, SOUTH CAROLINA

(Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor an extraordinary man of God and a true pillar in our community. Dr. Steve Hurte is the pastor of Temple Baptist Church in Anderson, South Carolina, and I am blessed to call him my pastor. This year, he is celebrating 50 years in ministry.

Dr. Hurte felt the call to preach at the early age of 8, and by 20 years old had devoted his life to serving the Lord.

Since 2013, Dr. Hurte has faithfully pastored at Temple Baptist Church. Though he carries himself with humility and gentleness, when he speaks from the Word, there is a strength and an authority that can only be described as God working through him. He is unafraid to speak the hard truths of Scripture even when they are unpopular.

Dr. Hurte is proof of what God can do with a life fully surrendered to Him. He has touched thousands of lives, including mine, and South Carolina is better because of his faithfulness.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in celebrating Dr. Steve Hurte for 50 years of unwavering service.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

(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, when I came to Congress in 2019, I knew it was a time of great tension, yet I was motivated all the more to do this work.

In the almost 7 years since, our empathy and our common humanity has been tested in unimaginable ways.

The latest is the horrific murder of Charlie Kirk.

Beyond the horror of such a vile act is the pervasive ugly rise in political violence.

We have witnessed it in my home State of Pennsylvania with the attempted assassination of Donald Trump in Butler; and, again, with the arson attack on Governor Josh Shapiro's home on Passover with his family sleeping upstairs; and again in Minnesota with the murder of House Speaker Emerita Melissa Horton, her husband, Mark, and their dog in their home; and now, again, at Utah Valley University.

We must condemn political violence in all its forms and in all its twisted motivations and perverse ideologies.

We must, instead, commit ourselves to civic engagement and education, commit ourselves to decency, dignity, and the truth for the good of this Nation, our neighbors, our families, and most especially our children.

□ 0910

WHAT I LEARNED FROM CHARLIE KIRK

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

Mr. KENNEDY of Utah. Mr. Speaker, 9 days ago in my district, a loving husband and father of two children, a public figure who debated vigorously conservative values and a representative for free speech, was assassinated by a deranged coward who felt that violence was the only way to deal with voices that he opposed.

Mr. Speaker, from Charlie Kirk's example, I have learned that we should live boldly, without fear. We should address and confront the cowards of the world who will oppose with violence those who seek to destroy free speech.

I have also learned from Charlie Kirk that we should debate vigorously, that we have opinions, and in this Hall, this sacred Hall, we can debate those opinions with respect and vigor.

Mr. Speaker, I have also learned that we should love completely. Charlie Kirk never degraded an individual that he debated. He always approached them with respect. With a loving approach, he tried to push forward his views and offer them as an alternative to those who debated him.

Mr. Speaker, I also point out that a widow and two amazing children are now left without a husband and a father.

To Erika and those children, I will just say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows of the world. Since ancient times, such as the widow Zarephath with Elijah, the mite that the widow cast into the temple treasury, as well as Jesus Christ's own mother, Mary, a widow, whom Jesus on the cross, while He suffered and died for all mankind, offered that widow, his mother, to His most beloved apostle to take care of for the rest of her life and make sure that she was cared for.

For Erika and her children, I will say that God has a special place in his heart for the widows and for the orphans. They also have a special place not only in my heart but in the hearts of millions as they suffer through the loss of her husband as well as the father of her children.

Mr. Speaker, I am inspired by Charlie Kirk and his example and the fact that his life now transcends not only his life and his message, but he stands for something more important now, which is freedom of speech, a constitutional privilege that our Nation will fight vigorously to protect.

I join with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to shun and eschew violence and to pursue freedom of speech through the rest of my days.

God bless America, Charlie Kirk, and his widow as we move forward.

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 43rd time today to call on the Trump administration to restore lifesaving food aid for starving children around the world.

Edesia Nutrition, an organization in my district, in North Kingstown, Rhode Island, manufactures Plumpy'Nut, a nutritional supplement that is needed to get starving children back to health. When kids are starving, their organs break down, and they cannot digest conventional food.

Millions of lives have been saved by this product, and now there are thousands of boxes sitting in a warehouse in Rhode Island because the Trump administration has stopped this program.

They continue to promise that they are going to bring it back online. Over and over again, they have said that this program will continue. They have even named the organization in my district. They have said that it will continue, but it has been 9 months, and we are still waiting.

We are about to debate and vote on a budget. What is the purpose of passing a budget if the administration will just ignore it?

I have spoken on this floor about the humanitarian necessity to restore this program, the national security necessity to restore this program, but it is a constitutional necessity as well because the legislative branch has the authority to pass budgets and the executive must execute on them.