

and esteem You show to us. May Your spirit of peace reside among us.

When we encounter those who fail to value the work with which You have entrusted us, may we reprove them, not as adversaries but as peers. Keep our eyes watchful for the fainthearted, that we would encourage them. May we share with the weak the strength You have provided. Let Your spirit of fellowship guide us.

With all people, especially in these days where discord is the cultural default, may we show patience to one another, proving the better part of our beings. May Your spirit of love uphold us.

In all that we do, may we choose not to repay evil with evil but seek to advance the common good and strive to follow the course of kindness in all of our endeavors.

As we pray in the power of Your name, we ask that You send Your spirit to lead us this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HARRIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING SUSAN WILLIAMS

(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, I rise today to recognize Susan Williams, the president and CEO of the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce. Susan will retire at the end of the month after 20 years of dedicated service.

Susan first started working for the Venango Area Chamber of Commerce in 2006 as the assistant executive director. She became the president and CEO 1 year later.

During her first year with the chamber, Susan operated with a team of just

two full-time staff and a summer intern. However, she quickly expanded the team and the programming offered by the chamber.

Susan was instrumental in the launch of FLEX, Venango County's young professionals organization. This initiative helps young people in the county collaborate and develop leadership skills.

In addition to FLEX, Susan helped launch Leadership Venango. This is a 9-month program designed to educate and motivate individuals in the community who aspire to be leaders.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Susan for her selflessness and serving Venango County so well.

I congratulate Susan on her retirement.

CELEBRATION OF EID AL-FITR

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

Ms. TLAIB. This week marks the celebration of Eid al-Fitr, which comes at the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time that strengthens our faith, deepens compassion, and brings people together in care for one another, but I also know that this Ramadan has been incredibly difficult for many of our families, especially those with loved ones in Lebanon and in Palestine.

I am sending love to all of the families who have lost loved ones and those who are celebrating Eid on top of the rubble of their masjids and their homes.

Even in the midst of pain and uncertainty, our Muslim neighbors have continued to show resilience. They continue to come together in community and supporting one another. As we gather to celebrate, let us keep showing up for each other and speaking out against injustices and caring for our communities with compassion and solidarity.

To all of the millions of Muslim Americans in our country right now, I want you to know that not everybody in this Chamber sees you as less human. A majority of us in this Chamber know that you are worthy of life, liberty, and justice.

May this Eid bring us closer to a future grounded in peace, justice, and dignity for all.

“Blessed Eid”; “Eid mubarak” to every Muslim here in the United States and around the world.

TRUMP PROTECTING AMERICAN FAMILIES

(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, Iran has been at war for 47 years, murdering American families,

justifying President Donald Trump to respond to the imminent threat from the Iranian regime.

Since the 1979 embassy seizure in Tehran to sponsoring terrorism through puppets like Hezbollah, Hamas, Iraqi militants, and Houthis, to Iran boasting to Envoy Steve Witkoff of 11 nuclear bombs, the regime in Tehran has chosen oppression of Iranians over peace and prosperity. They chant: “Death to America.”

President Trump has made the decision, with Israel, defending Americans: destroying missile capabilities, annihilating naval assets, and ensuring that Iran can never have a nuclear weapon.

We are forever grateful for the servicemembers defending American families.

Courageous commentator Mark Levin of Buckley, Goldwater, and Reagan heritage, stands with Trump, condemning isolationists as either dumb or evil.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump as Putin provides targeting information to Iran to kill Americans.

Our prayers for Suzie Wiles for a full recovery.

□ 1210

SUCCEEDING IN AI-DRIVEN ECONOMY

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, artificial intelligence is already transforming the way Americans live, work, and learn. It holds enormous promise for our future. From improving healthcare outcomes to helping small businesses grow, AI can be a powerful force for good when we, as legislators, create the environment to use it responsibly.

We also have a responsibility to prepare our workforce for the challenges ahead. That is why I have been leading on this issue in Congress, focusing on expanding job training and ensuring that employees and employers alike in north Texas and across this country have the tools they need to succeed in an AI-driven economy.

We cannot afford to fall behind. Other nations are investing aggressively in this technology. If we don't act, we risk ceding both economic and national security leadership.

Congress must act to prepare our workforce for this new reality and to establish a smart, reasonable regulatory framework—one that encourages innovation while protecting the public and keeping our kids safe in an increasingly digital world.

AI presents extraordinary opportunities, but only if we are prepared. That means investing in our people, setting

clear rules of the road, and leading with purpose.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIANE ORLOWSKI

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Diane Orlowski. She was a true force of nature. We came to know her affectionately on the campaign as Mama Deetz.

Mama Deetz would go shopping. She would call and make tons of volunteer efforts. She would do parades. She really was everywhere, but she had such an exuberance, a spirit about her, that was infectious. If someone heard her laugh, they might not even know what the joke was, but they were captivated by the laugh and would find themselves laughing, too.

She was a leader in the Myrtle Beach area, but also in Connecticut in the business community. She had decades of experience as a businesswoman. After retiring, of course, she did like most and retired to the Grand Strand.

We are going to miss her very deeply because of the life that she led and the person that she was. She loved her family dearly, her sons, her grandchildren. We were always impressed by the stories that she would share, the trouble that she would get into with her grandkids. She brought light into every room she was part of, and her absence leaves the world a little bit quieter without her laugh echoing through it. She will be deeply missed.

HONORING ELLEN LEWIS

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

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during Women's History Month, to honor Ellen Lewis of Wake Forest, North Carolina, a remarkable community member who is not often remembered in the history books.

Born into slavery, Ellen Lewis was about 15 years old when Union soldiers came through Wake Forest after the Civil War and told enslaved people that they were free.

After emancipation, she built a life of service to her community, becoming a respected nurse and midwife who delivered hundreds of babies, both Black and White.

Her story reminds us of the generations of Black women who have been the backbone of maternal care in our communities. Yet, today, Black mothers in America are still far more likely to experience complications or die from pregnancy-related causes.

Let's recommit ourselves to building a healthcare system where every mother can give birth safely and with dignity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. KENNETH JOHN BROWN

(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, I rise to honor Dr. Kenneth John Brown, a marine, teacher, husband, and man of deep faith who recently passed away at 102 years old.

Ken Brown was just 20 when he landed on Iwo Jima, where he proudly served his country. He came home, started a family, earned his doctorate, and spent his career teaching our youth in the classroom.

He was, by every account, a man who showed up for his country, for his church, for his students, and for his family for over a century.

Mr. Speaker, lives like Ken Brown's are worth pausing to recognize. He is a reminder that one person committed to the right things can leave this world better than he found it. May his example inspire all of us to do the same.

HONORING SIERRA PACIFIC GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the Sierra Pacific girls' basketball team for their amazing 2026 season.

This past year, the Lady Bears finished an incredible season by winning the Division II State championship, the highest CIF State division title in school history.

These student athletes have shown what is possible through teamwork, discipline, and grit. They put in long hours, battled through adversity, and continued to push themselves to be better every single day. That dedication has absolutely paid off.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the players, coaches, and families on this well-earned victory. They have made their school, community, and the Central Valley proud.

COST OF THE WAR IN IRAN

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, the war in Iran is crushing the economy here at home. Working-class and middle-class Americans are struggling.

Today, I read that the price of gas has gone up 27 percent in just 2 weeks. Every day, we are spending \$2 billion of American money in Iran.

To put that in perspective, for 20 days in Iran, we could have free public college for every American. We could have a thousand new trade schools. We could have childcare at \$10 a day for working-class Americans.

Today, Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE and I are introducing the Big Oil Wind-

fall Profits Tax Act for oil companies. They need to be paying a tax, and that money needs to go back in the pockets of ordinary Americans who are struggling at the pump.

Instead of putting more money into Iran, we need a Marshall Plan for the United States of America. The Democrats stand for America's economy first, building jobs here, childcare here, and healthcare here.

Let's focus on our people and our communities instead of draining more money to the war in the Middle East.

RECOGNIZING ELIZABETH CITY STATE UNIVERSITY

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, founded in 1891, Elizabeth City State University celebrated its 135th anniversary.

As the community gathered to celebrate a convocation, Chancellor Hargrove announced MacKenzie Scott's generous \$42 million contribution to the university, the largest dollar per student enrolled gift of any HBCU of her recent gifts.

Our HBCUs are game changers. They are transforming regions and lives in northeastern North Carolina.

We are reclaiming our future and keeping the American Dream within reach.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful that MacKenzie Scott sees the value of educational institutions like Elizabeth City State University. Viking pride, Viking pride, Viking pride.

□ 1220

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

PROPOSING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES REQUIRING A BALANCED BUDGET FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. BIGGS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 139) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States requiring a balanced budget for the Federal Government.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 139

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in