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House of Representatives

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

PRAYER

Rabbi Peter Stein, Temple B'rith Kodesh, Rochester, New York, offered the following prayer:

Source of blessing, I pray that today will bring us closer to a world of justice and peace. God, watch over the Members of this Congress. May You be blessed with wisdom and courage. May Your debates and decisions create safety and success, dignity and opportunity, for all who call our country home.

Lead them with a spirit of discernment, humanity, and restraint. Guide them with a commitment to the common good.

I pray for Your loved ones, that they remain safe and You remain in their nourishing embrace.

As You do Your work on Capitol Hill, may Your leadership stand on the values of compassion and respect, making this place a beacon of light that extends from sea to shining sea. May You remain steadfast in the pursuit of the vision of a nation of liberty and justice for all, a home for all who yearn to breathe free.

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 New York (Mr. MORELLE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MORELLE 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 RABBI PETER STEIN

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great gratitude for the opportunity to welcome Rabbi Peter Stein as our guest chaplain.

One of the privileges of our role in Congress is to introduce spiritual leaders from across the country who reflect the depth and diversity of faith in America. This tradition is more than ceremonial. It is a living expression of one of the most fundamental freedoms: the freedom to worship, to lead, and to serve according to one's faith.

Rabbi Stein embodies that calling. As the senior rabbi of Temple B'rith Kodesh, he has devoted decades to guiding his congregation with wisdom, compassion, and deep commitment to justice.

He has built bridges across faiths, worked to confront divisions and polarization, and reminded us that even in disagreement there is a responsibility to listen, to learn, and to treat one another with dignity.

Rabbi Stein, we are honored by your presence today, grateful for your leadership, and thankful for the example you set.

May your words continue to guide us in the work ahead.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RECOGNIZING JUNIATA VALLEY COUNCIL AMERICAN HERITAGE CAMPOREE

(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 highlight the Juniata Valley Council American Heritage Camporee, which I had the privilege of attending this weekend.

This year's camporee, hosted by the Howard Pack and Troop 353, welcomed more than 400 Scouts to my hometown of Howard, Pennsylvania, to enjoy a weekend of camping and learning about core Scout values and American heritage.

This year's camporee brought Scouts together to participate in interactive sessions at the Eagle Iron Works and Curtin Village, one of the longest-running ironworks in Pennsylvania.

Scouts spent the weekend learning the history of ironworking and what life would have looked like more than 100 years ago. I spent Saturday instructing participants on the American Heritage Merit Badge.

As an Eagle Scout and former Scoutmaster of Troop 353, it is always an honor to meet and spend time with the Scouts and learn more about the way they are positively impacting our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Juniata Valley Council, which was established more than 100 years ago, for planning the annual camporee. I extend special thanks to Tom and Patti Long for leading the planning and implementation of this event.

HONORING ALFRED FRANK BUCCI

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

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Alfred Frank Bucci,

□ 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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whom I had the pleasure of meeting last year and who we lost just 2 months before his 103rd birthday, in Catonsville, Maryland.

In World War II, Mr. Bucci served in the 99th Infantry Division during one of the war's most pivotal battles, the Battle of the Bulge.

Following the victory, Mr. Bucci and his division helped liberate three POW camps and one Jewish Holocaust concentration camp.

Mr. Bucci was awarded the Purple Heart for his injuries sustained during his service, and decades later, the French Government honored him with the Legion of Honor medal, France's highest military award.

Mr. Bucci continued his lifetime of service by working to improve the quality of life for all veterans at the VFW Post 7472 in Ellicott City. He also told his story to students around the world in the spirit of keeping history alive.

Today, we honor his sharp wit, his big heart, and his immeasurable devotion to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, he leaves behind a historic legacy and is survived by his daughter, Joyce; his son-in-law, George; his grandson; many nieces and nephews; and friends who were like family.

FUNDING DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, western North Carolina is still recovering from Hurricane Helene. Families are rebuilding homes; small businesses are getting back on their feet; and communities are working every day to repair critical infrastructure.

Now, Mr. Speaker, because some Members of Congress have chosen to protect their political interests over serving the folks of America, including those in western North Carolina, the Disaster Recovery Fund is about to run out of money, putting our recovery in serious jeopardy.

This fund supports debris removal, infrastructure repair, and emergency response already underway. Once it is depleted, Federal recovery operations will come to a halt, stopping reimbursements, delaying projects, and leaving local governments to shoulder costs that they cannot afford.

We cannot allow Washington to continue this dysfunction and derail disaster recovery or let the Disaster Relief Fund run dry.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to act immediately, end the political games, reopen the Department of Homeland Security operations, and fully replenish the Disaster Relief Fund so that western North Carolina can continue rebuilding without interruption.

□ 0910

RHODE ISLAND INDEPENDENCE DAY

(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, 250 years ago, on May 4, 1776, the people of Rhode Island became the first in America to declare their independence from the British crown.

Two months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Philadelphia, the Rhode Island General Assembly met in Providence and passed an act of renunciation to separate our State's political ties with the English King.

Rhode Islanders have always believed in freedom, democracy, and the right to chart our own course. Our State's founding document in 1663 made us the first place in the Western Hemisphere to allow freedom of religion.

In 1772, when the British Empire sent ships to enforce its unfair laws, we took matters into our own hands and burnt the HMS *Gaspee* in the Narragansett Bay, an act of defiance to inspire the continent to rise up against tyranny.

Rhode Island did not just participate in the American Revolution. We launched it. Happy May 4.

HONORING LIFE OF ANTHONY YANIZ

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

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to honor the life of Anthony Yaniz, a proud son of Key West and a true pillar of the Florida Keys community.

Tony was a former Key West commissioner and a larger-than-life figure who dedicated himself to serving others and strengthening the community that he loved.

Tony's work supported important local institutions, including the Key West Veterans Memorial and the Center for Animal Welfare and Education. His commitment to his community was not just public. It was personal. He showed up for his neighbors time and time again.

Anthony Yaniz leaves behind a legacy of service, passion, and love for Key West. He will be deeply missed, but his impact will live on for generations.

May he rest in peace.

WE CARE FOR OUR VETERANS

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

Mr. LATIMER. Mr. Speaker, veterans give so much to our country, and it is up to us to take care of them when they become civilians. That means

quality, easy-to-access care at VA hospitals and outpatient facilities and benefits for a disability diagnosis, purchasing a home, or learning skills to rejoin the workforce.

In Congress, I am committed to maintaining these benefits for veterans and preventing any action that would require additional hurdles to receive these earned benefits.

One major bill I am supporting is top of mind for veterans: H.R. 1970, Providing Veterans Essential Medications Act, will direct the VA to reimburse State homes for the cost of certain costly medications provided to veterans who receive nursing home care.

Last year, I visited the Bronx VA medical center to speak with staff and veterans about the high quality of services and research provided there.

It is clear that the VA staff are doing everything that they can to care for and improve services for veterans. We will push back against any cuts by this administration that renege on our commitment to our veterans.

HONORING IDAHO GOVERNOR DIRK KEMPThorNE

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand today to remember the life and legacy of a dear friend and fellow Idahoan, Dirk Kempthorne.

Dirk was a trusted leader and a devoted public servant. Throughout his distinguished career, he served as mayor of Boise, Idaho's Governor, United States Senator, and Secretary of the Interior.

In each role, Dirk worked tirelessly to strengthen our communities, promote responsible stewardship, and expand opportunity for Idaho families.

His leadership helped support job growth, drive commerce, and invest in infrastructure across the Gem State. He was also instrumental in the commissioning of the USS *Idaho* nuclear submarine, championing support for its crew and their families.

Beyond his many accomplishments, Dirk was a loving husband, father, and grandfather. He was just a good man.

Rest in peace, my friend.

HONORING EVA WOODBY

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

Mrs. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Eva Woodby, who recently passed away, and I send my deepest condolences to her devoted husband, Alex Yu, and family.

Eva lived the American Dream. She came to the United States as a student with nothing and worked tirelessly to build a very successful business. No matter how much she achieved, she never stopped giving back or lifting others up.