

Brett's journey reminds us that the sport can unite us and inspire the next generation to push beyond its limits. As Team USA takes the ice in March in the Paralympics, we will be cheering on loudly for Brett Bolton and his teammates as part of Team USA.

Go USA!

RECOGNIZING A MANATEE RESCUE IN  
MELBOURNE BEACH

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the dedicated effort of first responders and wildlife experts who rescued a trapped manatee from a storm drain in Melbourne Beach.

Local police officers, firefighters, and wildlife officials quickly responded to the call. Working carefully and patiently, they assessed the situation, monitored the animal's condition, and coordinated a safe extraction.

This rescue highlights something special about our coastline communities. Floridians understand that protecting wildlife is part of protecting our way of life. Our waterways are home to remarkable species, and safeguarding them requires vigilance and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the Melbourne Beach Police Department, local fire crews, and wildlife partners for their swift action. Their professionalism protected one of Florida's most cherished marine animals.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

Reverend Jonathan Slavinskas, St. Bernard's Church of Our Lady of Providence Parish, Worcester, Massachusetts, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, Lord of all nations, we ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon the people they serve. In a time marked by division, anxiety, and uncertainty, grant these leaders wisdom to seek the common good, courage to choose what is right over what is easy, and the humility to listen with open hearts.

Where there is anger, sow patience. Where there is mistrust, build understanding. Where there is fear, awaken hope. Remind us that beyond every difference, we remain one people, entrusted with the care of this Nation and of one another.

Bless those who defend our freedoms, those who serve in our communities,

and those who struggle quietly, wondering if their voices still matter. May this Chamber be guided not only by power, but by conscience, always mindful of the dignity of every human person.

May all who lead do so in a way that would make the people back home proud to say that they were heard here.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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 REVEREND JONATHAN SLAVINSKAS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, Mr. MCGOVERN of Massachusetts is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this morning I am honored to have my dear friend, Father Jonathan Slavinskas, pastor of St. Bernard's Church of Our Lady of Providence Parish in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts, give today's opening prayer.

Father Jonathan, as he is known by his parishioners, is a true force of good in the Lincoln Street area. He is always a welcoming and friendly face who is known for buying pizza for the neighborhood kids or opening up the gym for pickup basketball games.

He is also the chaplain for both the Worcester Police Department and the Worcester Fire Department. He cares deeply about our immigrant community.

Day in and day out, Father Jonathan lives out his Catholic faith in big and small ways. He shows up for his community and is always there for his people, especially when they are going through rough times.

Father Jonathan has long been a cherished friend of the entire McGovern family, especially of my daughter, Molly, who sadly passed away last April. Lisa and I will forever be grateful to him.

Mr. Speaker, with a friendly smile and a touch of humor, Father Jonathan goes out of his way to make those around him welcome both in the church and in the neighborhood. We should all be inspired by his remarkable example.

#### CELEBRATING STUDENTS AT PENN STATE UNIVERSITY

(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 celebrate an incredible group of students at Penn State University who have helped raise money for pediatric cancer patients.

THON is a year-long fundraising effort that culminates in a 46-hour dance marathon. THON is the largest student-run philanthropy event in the world and will help to financially support almost 5,000 families with children who are battling cancer.

This weekend, students, staff, and volunteers filled the Bryce Jordan Center to raise awareness and money for the Four Diamonds Foundation. Over 700 THON participants danced for 46 hours straight.

THON was first originated in 1973 by Bill Lear as a proposed dance marathon to raise money for a good cause. Mr. Speaker, 78 students participated, and over \$2,000 was raised. Over 40 years later, more than \$236 million has been donated, and not a single Four Diamonds family has received a medical bill. This year, THON raised over \$18 million.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the legacy that THON has established, and I am proud of the children and families who fight every day against pediatric cancer.

#### THANKING THE PEOPLE OF DENMARK AND GREENLAND

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank the people of Denmark and Greenland for their quick professional evacuation last Saturday of a U.S. submariner on board the USS *Delaware* 7 miles off Greenland's coast. The submariner was experiencing an acute medical problem that required immediate hospital care.

Mr. Speaker, I had the honor of representing the Connecticut submarine base where the USS Delaware and its crew are homeported. In the north Atlantic, our subs have conducted joint NATO patrols in the waters off Greenland, Iceland, and the U.K. for many decades which benefits U.S. Homeland Security. It is a team effort and Denmark's response to a U.S. sailor in distress is a powerful example of how the NATO alliance is not just based on words but rather meaningful deeds.

Mr. Speaker, for some reason, there has been deafening silence from our Commander in Chief and Navy leadership to publicly thank Denmark for its act of friendship on Saturday.

As the Representative of the USS *Delaware*'s home port and ranking member of the Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee, I will publicly tell the people of that nation that