

spirit moved over the chaos of the deep, it brought a purifying wind over the formlessness and void of the Earth.

Lord, let there be light in our darkness. Where warfare continues to rage in Ukraine and where hostilities between Israel and Hamas threaten the fragility of life, in the civil wars in Africa and in urban violence in our own country, Lord, separate the light from the darkness. Speak Your purifying Word and bring order into the turmoil of our world.

You have laid the foundations of the Earth, determined its measurements, and rested it on the cornerstone of Your Word. As You have set the limits of the sea and commanded the proud waves to stop, restrain our surge for power. Demand of humanity the humility to serve You only and submit to Your will.

Look upon the work of our hands this day as we tend to the world You have entrusted to us. For You are the author of all creation, the one who made us. May we give You reason, when You look at Your handiwork, to call it good.

In Your sovereign name we pray.  
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 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.

#### RECOGNIZING WELLSBORO ROTARY CLUB'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

(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 to recognize the Wellsboro Rotary Club's centennial anniversary.

For a century, the Wellsboro Rotary Club provided unwavering, dedicated service to the community.

The men and women of the Wellsboro Rotary are guided by The Four-Way Test, which is as follows: Of the things we think, say, or do:

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

These guiding principles are the foundation of the Wellsboro Rotary Club's work, shaping a century of service that has left a mark on Wellsboro and the surrounding communities.

Their impact is evident, from recognizing outstanding students and supporting local charities to installing bicycle service stations and funding scholarships.

At its core, Rotary is about service above self. It is about bringing people together, regardless of background, to make the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Wellsboro Rotary Club for its contributions to the community and congratulate these volunteers on 100 years of making a difference.

#### WE MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UKRAINE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to voice my unwavering support for the people of Ukraine.

As Russia persists in its unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, it is crucial that we unite against Putin as defenders of freedom. By coming together, we can safeguard Ukraine's sovereignty and the future of democracy.

Ukrainians, demonstrating extraordinary resilience, have displayed unwavering courage on the front lines for nearly 3 years. I remain steadfast in supporting democracy, standing with Ukraine, and opposing all of the enemies of freedom around the world.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. FEDORCHAK). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) at 4 p.m.

#### 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.

#### ASSISTING SMALL BUSINESSES NOT FRAUDSTERS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 825) to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 825

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Assisting Small Businesses Not Fraudsters Act".

#### SEC. 2. ASSISTANCE PROHIBITED AFTER FRAUD CONVICTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROHIBITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An associate of a small business concern who is finally convicted of any crime involving or relating to financial misconduct or a false statement with respect to a covered loan or grant shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(2) BUSINESS CONCERNS.—A small business concern that has as an associate an individual subject to paragraph (1) shall be ineligible to receive any financial assistance from the Administrator, other than financial assistance under section 7(b).

“(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) ASSOCIATE.—The term ‘associate’ means, with respect to a small business concern—

“(i) an officer, director, or owner of more than 20 percent of the equity of, or a key employee of, such small business concern;

“(ii) any entity not less than 20 percent owned or controlled by one or more individuals referred to in clause (i); and

“(iii) any other individual or entity in control of or controlled by such small business concern, except for a licensed small business investment company (as defined in section 103(3) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 662(3))).

“(B) COVERED LOAN OR GRANT.—The term ‘covered loan or grant’ means—

“(i) a loan made under—

“(I) paragraph (36) or (37) of subsection (a) of section 7; or

“(II) subsection (b) of such section in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; or

“(ii) a grant made under—

“(I) section 5003 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (15 U.S.C. 9009c); or

“(II) section 324 of the Economic Aid to Hard-Hit Small Businesses, Nonprofits, and Venues Act (15 U.S.C. 9009a).

“(C) FINALLY CONVICTED.—The term ‘finally convicted’ means, with respect to a person, that such person has been convicted of an offense and such conviction—

“(i) has not been appealed and is no longer appealable because the time for taking an appeal has expired; or

“(ii) has been appealed and the appeals process for such conviction is completed.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (h) of section 16 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 645), as added by subsection (a) of this Act, shall not apply to any contract or other agreement entered into by the Government prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from