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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, the recent numbers are staggering: 500,000 deaths from COVID, 58 people who have died in the winter storms of the last 10 days, and at one point 4 million households were without power in Texas.

In the face of the enormity of these figures, we come to You this day at a loss for words, few answers, and in some cases no hope.

Speak to us, O infinite Lord. How precious are Your thoughts, how vast is their sum. If we could count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. You who have determined the number of the stars and call them each by name, great are You our Lord and mighty in power. Your understanding has no limit.

In Your attention to us, You have numbered the hairs on our heads. We ask then that You would heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. Cover us with Your eternity. May we rest secure in knowing that You will never leave nor forsake us.

It is in the strength of Your everlasting name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South 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.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 146

Resolved, That following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

EDUCATORS OWED BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate Public Schools Week, to talk about the urgent need to protect our teachers, educational support staff, all of their fami-

lies, and the community at large in our schools.

While the national debate has centered around schools that are closed, in many States, such as Georgia, school districts with high COVID transmission rates are back to in-person teaching, but often without basic safety standards in place, such as requiring students to wear masks on school property.

Teachers and staff in Georgia do not enjoy the protection of strong teacher unions, and the State has exempted schools from liability around COVID. A teacher recognized for excellence in Forsyth County, in my district, chose to quit her job.

She wrote me, saying: Fortunately, my family earns enough money for me not to return to teach, but there are some others who don't have this blessing and are forced into dangerous circumstances. They can't speak up. They know their employment would be on the line if they did. So unless others like me speak up and out, this mess will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I join this teacher in speaking out. We owe our educators the courtesy of basic public health protection. We owe them prioritization in receiving the vaccine.

PARIS ACCORD DESTROYS JOBS

(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, it has been estimated the Paris Accord adopted by President Joe Biden will destroy 2.7 million American jobs.

The Washington Examiner, on January 26, exposes more dangers to American families:

"President Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris climate accord immediately delivered . . . a gift to China.

□ 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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"It commits the United States . . . that will entangle American businesses and jobs in new lengths of red tape, and will also probably increase electricity prices.

"China, which emits twice as much carbon each year as we do, has given the rest of the world nothing but empty promises.

"Biden is giving away the store for nothing . . . he should demand external verification of emissions data. . . ."

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

I appreciate President Biden last night recognizing the lives lost by the Wuhan virus, joining President Trump last year, who took the first action to ban travel from China.

UNRELATED COVID RELIEF BILL

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

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I have been reading the COVID "unrelated" relief bill. At least when President Trump was borrowing money to keep the economy from crashing, he was creating jobs, making America energy independent—lowering gasoline and fuel prices for every American family—lowering unemployment, protecting our borders, rebuilding our military, and so on.

Now, however, with the assistance of this Chamber, this administration is doing just the opposite.

It sounds like something right from the pages of Saul Alinsky's book, "Rules for Radicals," how malcontents propose to destroy America.

This COVID "unrelated" relief bill is more about keeping America closed and funding liberal policies than getting past this virus, and it is outrageous.

RECOGNIZING LUKA GARZA

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of someone in my district who is not as vertically challenged as I am.

This past weekend, University of Iowa men's basketball player Luka Garza broke the University of Iowa's all-time scoring record in basketball. The new record of 2,126 points put Luka ahead of the late Roy Marble, who held the previous record of 2,116 points for over 30 years.

A native of the D.C. area, Luka was a star player for the Maret School, leading the Frogs to a city championship while being named Gatorade D.C. Player of the Year and setting the school points record.

Luka has been a dominant player in college basketball since his first game

as a University of Iowa Hawkeye against Chicago State. Since then, he has gone on to win numerous conference and national awards, including Big Ten Player of Year and the Sporting News Player of the Year last season.

As a former faculty member at the university, I was thrilled when Luka decided to return to Iowa City for his senior season instead of heading to the NBA draft. With four regular season games, the Big Ten Tournament, and March Madness left, I have no doubt that Luka will continue to break his own record and make Iowa proud and the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

PRESERVING OUR CIVIL RIGHTS

(Mrs. GREENE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, as we convene this week, I would like to ask all of my fellow colleagues and Members of the 117th Congress to reflect on the words right there on the wall: In God We Trust.

God created us male and female. In His image, He created us. The Equality Act that we are to vote on this week destroys God's creation. It also completely annihilates women's rights and religious freedoms.

It can be handled completely differently to stop discrimination without destroying women's rights, little girls' rights in sports, and religious freedoms violating everything that we hold dear in God's creation.

As we are reflecting on the 500,000 people who have died from COVID-19, I would like to remind everyone that over 62 million people have been murdered in the womb in our country and that our tax dollars many times have funded it. This is an evil that should not exist in our land, and I ask all Members of Congress to stop this evil now.

HONORING SHARON SANDERS

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Sharon Sanders, one of Charlotte's great philanthropists and the founder of Kids First of the Carolinas, which through the decades has provided essentials and Christmas gifts to over 35,000 children and families in the Charlotte area. Ms. Sanders died January 14 after a battle with cancer.

Sharon was a wife, mother, and friend to all, with an extraordinary passion for helping others. Her love for children led to her founding Kids First; and with the assistance of legendary Charlotte broadcaster John Hancock, the organization was able to expand outreach, providing for more than 2,000 children every Christmas and raising about \$80,000 a year.

Even as she endured treatment for cancer, Sharon remained devoted to Kids First. Despite her hospitalization, she was overjoyed that they were, once again, able to help over 1,000 families during the holidays past.

Mr. Speaker, the Charlotte community will miss Sharon greatly. It is a privilege to honor her memory today.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 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 (Mrs. DEMINGS) 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 the yeas and nays are ordered.

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

JOSEPH HAYNE RAINEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 264) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, as the "Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 264

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

SECTION 1. JOSEPH HAYNE RAINEY MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1101 Charlotte Street in Georgetown, South Carolina, shall be known and designated as the "Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Joseph Hayne Rainey Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. MFUME) and the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. MFUME. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.