

Today, Putin's war is conducting mass murder, defaming the people of Russia as innocent women and children are being murdered.

God bless Ukraine. God save Ukraine. Long live Volodymyr Zelensky.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HOULAHAN) at noon.

PRAYER

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

O Lord, our God, will now be the time when You reveal Your favor? Answer those who cry to You, O compassionate Lord, for Your blessing this day.

Is today the day of salvation? Help those, Almighty God, who find themselves in unspeakable danger and desperately in need of Your saving grace at this very moment.

Will You allow release for the prisoners of tyranny?

Will You shine light on those who have been enveloped in the darkness of destruction?

Have pity on those who suddenly find themselves physically and spiritually hungry and thirsty.

Have pity on them and lead them by springs of living water. Refresh them again with hope found only in You. Do not let them be struck down, they who endure the scorching wind of war and the heat of battle.

Turn impassable mountains into an open road and raise up Your highways above any obstruction of passage. May those who seek refuge find shelter in You and those who suffer brought safely toward Your haven of compassion.

We call upon Your strong and sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 55. An act to amend section 249 of title 18, United States Code, to specify lynching as a hate crime act.

H.R. 2545. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the role of doctors of podiatric medicine in the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2089. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes.

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.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF PRESIDING ELDER ALONZO MIDDLETON

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

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dear friend and mentor who was a man of great faith. Elder Alonzo Middleton passed away on March 1, 2022, at the age of 91.

Elder Middleton used his longevity in great service to the African Methodist Episcopal Church. He was a proud lifetime member of my home congregation, Morris Brown AME Church, in Charleston, South Carolina, and was a graduate of Allen University, where he later served on the board of trustees.

Elder Middleton was a pastor and presiding elder in the Seventh Episcopal District, which encompasses the entire State of South Carolina. He served as a delegate to multiple quadrennials of the AME Church's general conference and on its general board.

He retired from active service as presiding elder of the Mount Pleasant District, one of the largest in the AME Church.

One of his lasting accomplishments was engineering the merger of three small Charleston congregations to create a single church renamed the Great-er Middleton Chapel AME Church.

Elder Middleton was a mentor for many generations of AME clergy and laymen. He will be sorely missed.

THIRTEEN KILLED IN KABUL

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today having received a message from the mother of a young American hero, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, who tragically and unnecessarily lost his life during the Biden administration's catastrophic withdrawal from Afghanistan.

She encouraged me to publicly share her message, which in part read:

Mrs. Boebert, I am the mother of Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, one of the 13 killed in Kabul. I wish more people had the backbone that you have. When I heard you say, "13 of them," my heart dropped, my eyes filled with tears, and I was so happy to hear about our 13 kids at that very moment. You have no idea how much that meant to me.

We have been lied to over and over, and then we watch this administration act as if it never happened. The pain of losing my son is unbearable.

Just know when I heard you say, "13 of them," it gave me hope to help us get some type of justice about what this corrupt administration has done and is still doing. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to say it was impossible to ignore our 13 servicemembers, and they will continue to be honored and remembered, despite their Commander in Chief intending to ignore them.

HONORING "HARMONICA PETE" DUPRE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize the extraordinary life of Rochester's own Pete DuPre, fondly known as Harmonica Pete, who died peacefully at the venerable age of 98 earlier this year.

Harmonica Pete served our Nation as a combat medic during World War II. When he returned home, he began volunteering with the Greatest Generation Foundation, playing the harmonica for veterans groups.

His heartfelt rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner" onboard the USS *Arizona* and his performance before the U.S. Women's National Soccer Team in 2019 turned Harmonica Pete into a worldwide viral sensation.

He chose to heal our Nation's veterans through music and brought joy to all who knew him.

Pete once said, "History books fade, and so do we," but his memory will never fade from our hearts and minds.

May you rest in peace, Harmonica Pete.

FOCUSING ON ENERGY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is time to focus on our energy crisis and our energy costs, but that also relates to food.

In our country, we are already seeing bare shelves of food items. You might recall years ago when Boris Yeltsin visited this country. They took him to a supermarket, and he was amazed by what was on American shelves. Now, we are moving in the direction of having shelves like in Russia.

In my home State of California, as they cut off the water supply, the Klamath Basin got zero water last year to farm crops, and in the San Joaquin Valley and part of the Sacramento Valley, zero water allocations.

As we look at conditions around the world, Russia is deciding to cut off some of the imports of fertilizer, which will make it harder to plant crops. Hungary has decided they are not going to export grain anymore this coming year. This is going to have a ripple effect through all food supplies and certainly on prices. The price of wheat is way up, maybe 100 percent—wheat futures. We are going to feel this at the stores if we are not planting our own food in this country.

We have the water to do it in California, but it is all going out in the ocean in order to support fish that no longer live there. And the salinity issue is misused.

We have to focus once again.

CALLING FOR U.S. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, this week, the House will consider a bill to provide both humanitarian and military aid to the people of Ukraine.

We must fortify President Zelensky and the Ukrainian people from an unprovoked attack on an independent country. We must also protect ourselves.

Putin has weaponized oil and natural gas export profits, profits that he stole from the Russian people, parking oil profits throughout the world in oligarchs.

Right now, the United States imports 22 million barrels of Russian oil every single month. This is 60 percent of the money that Putin used to leverage his invasion, and it must stop.

Our country needs long-term energy independence.

There are 211 lithium-ion battery plants in the world. Mr. Speaker, 156 are in China, and just 12 are here in the United States. We need to get tough on China, but we need to get tougher on ourselves about China.

Everyone will benefit from an America that is producing electric vehicles and one that is truly energy independent. It is time to get serious about this. American jobs and national security are on the line.

FAMILY FARMS ARE SUFFERING

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the critical issues facing my fellow farmers.

The world is on fire under President Biden and his America last agenda. We are seeing skyrocketing costs of critical inputs, such as fertilizer. Nitrogen fertilizer has doubled in price.

Our fuel prices have reached record highs, and President Biden's solution is to beg our enemies in Iran and Venezuela for more oil.

The supply chain crisis was never addressed, and farmers are struggling to find parts to repair equipment. Family farms are suffering, and every American is about to see a drastic increase in the price of food.

I am afraid for regular Americans. This yearlong experiment of woke government has been a disaster.

My constituents in the 15th District miss President Trump and an agenda that put America first.

NAVIGATING THE IRS

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, as the 2022 tax filing season gets underway, I rise to draw attention to the issues that my constituents face when trying to navigate the IRS.

James from Nottingham came to my office because his 2020 return was delayed for almost a year. Lisa from Berwyn called us after she learned that a clerical error at the IRS had led the Social Security Administration to claim that she owed them a significant amount of money. And Tina from Malvern worked with my team to secure a full refund.

Stories like these are far too common. As recently as the end of last year, the agency had a backlog of over 8 million new and amended individual returns.

That is why I was proud to join with over 190 of our House colleagues in sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Yellen, urging her to provide taxpayers with relief and flexibility while the IRS addresses its backlog. These backlogs lead to delays and errors that are devastating to the families and businesses at the heart of my community and many others. It is imperative that this relief and flexibility be provided.

HELPING STARBUCKS EMPLOYEES THRIVE

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

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I am here to talk about a company you might have heard about: Starbucks. They made the \$8 cup of coffee a little popular.

The workers there through the pandemic are now struggling to form a union. Well, Kevin Johnson, the CEO, got a 39 percent raise. Not bad. The workers took a cut.

Those profits didn't magically appear. Starbucks didn't pour their own coffee. It was the men and women who went out during the pandemic and went to work. Yet, Kevin Johnson gets a \$20 million bonus.

If Kevin is listening, he should do the right thing.

We hear the ethical sourcing that Starbucks talks about helping people thrive. Well, he needs to do it right here in America and treat his employees right.

Mr. Speaker, Kevin should do the right thing and take care of his employees.

□ 1215

OIL COMPANIES SHOULD NOT PRICE GOUGE

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the President just announced that he will ban the importation of Russian oil. It is a tiny fraction of the oil we consume, so it shouldn't mean a big run-up in price. In fact, prices have already run up 30 percent since the invasion of Ukraine, they have already priced it in, and they are already profiting from it.

We need to become energy independent, as the President pointed out. We have to break our addiction to Big Oil. We need to be self-sufficient on renewables, but we don't need to price gouge the American people on the way there.

Last year, the oil companies reported record profits, bought back \$7 billion worth of stock, and had record dividends. This year, they say there is a \$22 billion stock buyback, bigger dividends, bigger profits. They should not be price gouging during a crisis.

I am introducing legislation for a price gouging profits tax with rebates to consumers.

Colleagues, join me in this effort. Don't let Big Oil gouge the American consumers under the guise of an international crisis.

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, Democrats are building a better America for the people.