

attorney for the Southern Poverty Law Center. That is disgraceful.

This all comes on the heels of antifa terrorizing Americans for years now.

Never forget in the summer of 2020, antifa caused over \$2 billion in damage; setting fires to cities, businesses, attacking police officers, and killing people. Yet over 95 percent of those arrested had their charges dropped.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS DEMAND TRANSPARENCY

(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, for over 2 years, many institutions, Federal agencies, and the mainstream media demonized anyone who suggested that COVID-19 leaked from the Wuhan Institute of Virology.

Senator TOM COTTON was ridiculed for simply suggesting that the lab leak was a possibility.

Leading scientists, doctors, and pundits were censored for questioning the natural origins theory promoted by Dr. Anthony Fauci, the NIH, and CDC.

Now, FBI Director Chris Wray and the Department of Energy are reporting that the pandemic most likely originated from a lab leak in Wuhan.

Big Tech and the media worked to actively suppress this theory and ridiculed anyone who promoted it.

At a time when accurate information was vital to saving lives, the people and institutions who we trusted to tell the truth lied to the American people and worked to hide important information.

House Republicans have been demanding transparency on the origins of COVID since the pandemic began.

We must get to the truth of how this pandemic started so that we can protect ourselves from future possible outbreaks.

Americans deserve to know the truth about their government, what it knew, and when it knew it. We must restore faith and trust in government and institutions, and that starts with transparency and accountability.

RECOGNIZING HERNANDO COUNTY RESIDENTS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible effort of my Hernando County constituents from Brooksville, Florida, who mobilized rapidly under the skillful leadership of Hernando County Sheriff Al Nienhuis to search for 2-year-old JJ Rowland, who went missing 24 hours earlier.

Against all hope, Sheriff Nienhuis and his team of dedicated professionals coordinated a colossal effort with hundreds of volunteers in their search for little JJ.

Through the powers of prayer and the remarkable instincts of volunteer Roy Link, a retired marine, the sweet, precious child was found safe and sound deep in the woods, a mile and a half from the home he wandered from. What a miracle, Mr. Speaker.

I am so proud and honored to represent this loving and faithful community.

God bless them all.

I thank all who prayed for this wonderful little boy.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF LINWOOD HOLLAND

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

Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and memory of a member of the Greatest Generation, a Congressional Gold Medal recipient, an American hero: Montford Point Marine Corporal Linwood Holland.

A constituent of Virginia's Second Congressional District, Corporal Holland passed away in Suffolk on February 16 at the age of 99 years old. He leaves behind a legacy of bravery, perseverance, and love of country.

In 1942, Linwood Holland traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to enlist in the United States war effort. In the face of adversity and discrimination, he became one of the first Black Americans to serve in the Marine Corps.

Over the course of World War II, more than 20,000 Montford Point marines served in segregated units. Corporal Holland served our Nation and the Marine Corps honorably, fighting in the consequential battles of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

He courageously paved the way for future generations of Black Americans and U.S. Marines.

The Suffolk community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the United States as a whole has lost a valiant member of the Greatest Generation.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in mourning the loss of Corporal Holland and honoring this American hero for his service.

□ 1415

PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES CALL FOR RUSSIA TO END WAR IN UKRAINE

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

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the five Pacific Island countries in Micronesia that, at their summit in February, called for Russia to end its war against Ukraine.

Following their summit, these countries—Marshall Islands, Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, and Nauru—joined a U.N. General Assembly resolution demanding that Rus-

sia immediately and unconditionally withdraw all of its military forces from Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, last September, I addressed the Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders—the heads of all Pacific governments, independent and territorial alike. At that gathering, I urged the leaders to resist any overtures by China until China also demands Russia stop its war with Ukraine: “Before you even think about negotiating any agreements with Beijing, you should be asking China to live up to international standards on climate change.”

I concluded by asking them to use their “international leverage and prestige to tell China not to support Russia in any way in its unjust war in Ukraine.”

Job well done by America's friends in the Pacific. “Farewell and may you be well,” “Soifua ma ia e manuia.”

ELECTING MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 194, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 194

Resolved,

SECTION 1. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY AND JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

(a) JOINT COMMITTEE OF CONGRESS ON THE LIBRARY.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee of Congress on the Library, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration and the chair of the Subcommittee on the Legislative Branch of the Committee on Appropriations:

- (1) Mr. Carey.
- (2) Mr. Morelle.
- (3) Ms. Sewell.

(b) JOINT COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.—The following Members are hereby elected to the Joint Committee on Printing, to serve with the chair of the Committee on House Administration:

- (1) Mr. Griffith.
- (2) Mr. Murphy.
- (3) Mr. Morelle.
- (4) Mr. Kilmer.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

MARCH 6, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER MCCARTHY: Pursuant to Section 4(c) of House Resolution 5, 118th Congress, I am pleased to appoint the following Member to the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission to serve as the Democratic Co-chairman:

The Honorable James P. McGovern of Massachusetts.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

COMMUNICATION FROM FIELD REPRESENTATIVE/CASEWORKER, THE HONORABLE LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Jacob Wolak, Field Representative/Caseworker, the Honorable LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 16, 2023.

Hon. KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, Jacob Wolak, Field Representative/Caseworker for the Honorable Linda T. Sánchez, U.S. Representative for the 38th congressional district of California, have been served with a subpoena for testimony issued by the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, State of California.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

JACOB WOLAK,
Field Representative/Caseworker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 19 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1703

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FRY) at 5 o'clock and 3 minutes 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.

REPAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 502) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs repays members of the Armed Forces for certain contributions made by such members towards Post-9/11 Educational Assistance, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 502

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

SECTION 1. REPAYMENT OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TOWARD POST-9/11 EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3327(f)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “together” and all that follows through “(as applicable).”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on August 1, 2023.

SEC. 2. MODIFICATION OF CERTAIN HOUSING LOAN FEES.

The loan fee table in section 3729(b)(2) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “November 14, 2031” each place it appears and inserting “November 28, 2031”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 502, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Representative BANKS' bill, H.R. 502, as amended. I am pleased to support Representative BANKS' bill to ensure that all servicemembers who have paid into the GI Bill are properly repaid. This bill would close the financial loophole that prevents at least 25,000 Active-Duty servicemembers from receiving the repayments they are due.

Under current law, a servicemember who switches from Montgomery to the Post-9/11 GI Bill would lose \$1,200 that they paid into the program if they exhausted their benefits while still on Active Duty. Veterans who exhaust their benefits already receive the \$1,200 back.

Representative BANKS' bill would fix this policy to ensure that servicemem-

bers and veterans who are pursuing a higher education degree are treated equally.

Servicemembers have earned this benefit by protecting our country. They should not be short changed just because they are getting an education while still on Active Duty.

This bill would include a short-term extension of VA home loan funding fees to fully offset the cost of this bill.

I thank The American Legion for bringing this problem to our attention. I also thank Congressman BANKS for reintroducing this important bill that will make a big difference for thousands of Active-Duty servicemen and -women.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 502, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 502, as amended, legislation to ensure veterans can recoup the money they paid into the Montgomery GI Bill.

Under current law, veterans who do not fully access their Montgomery GI Bill can lose out on the payments they made into the program, in some cases totaling up to \$1,200.

The Montgomery GI Bill is in the process of being phased out for the more generous Forever GI Bill. Many veterans may not remember the \$1,200 they paid into the program in their early days of service or even be aware that they are entitled to a refund of the unused funds. The process to reclaim that \$1,200 can be difficult, and there are times when the veteran can simply lose out on the money because they waited too long.

This legislation eliminates that cumbersome process by making it so that the veteran is repaid, no questions asked.

The bill is fully offset, and it is supported by the veterans service organizations community, including by Student Veterans of America.

I thank Representative BANKS for his work on this legislation and the VSO community for bringing this issue to our committee. We were able to pass this legislation under the House last fall, but unfortunately, the Senate was unable to consider it. That is why I am thankful we can consider this bill early in 2023, giving our colleagues in the Senate plenty of time to complete it. No disrespect to the Senate, Mr. Speaker.

I urge the rest of my colleagues to support this legislation to ensure no veteran loses out on what is owed to them, and I certainly hope that Members of the House who aspire to be Senators will remember what it is like to be a House Member and make sure this never happens again.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the sponsor of this legislation.