

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO) having assumed the chair, Mr. HERN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4366) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 614, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Wasserman Schultz of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4366 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question are postponed.

□ 1845

CONGRATULATING EVALYNN SANFORD

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate recent Camden County High School graduate Evalynn Sanford for winning a national championship in architectural drafting at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta.

Sanford, who is 18 years young, captured the gold medal on Saturday,

June 24, 2023. She faced nearly 50 other competitors from across the U.S. in the architectural drafting competition.

In August, she will graduate with an associate's degree in drafting technology from Coastal Pines Technical College.

Sanford has an impressive resume, already working as an intern at Charles W. Day Design, which is an architectural firm in Brunswick.

In addition to her award, Sanford earned \$2,000 in scholarships, which she will put toward her next educational endeavor, a degree in architecture from the Savannah College of Art and Design.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Ms. Sanford on her championship and wish her the best of luck in all her future endeavors.

HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a great American, and I want to say at this point in time: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

I rise to recognize the Keeper of the Mace for the United States House of Representatives on this day, Joyce Hamlett, who has been a caretaker, a defender, a person who has kept this House in order, a person who knows the rules better than most Members and has also been a friend.

She has helped me with doctors, talked to me when I have been in bad shape, and kept me warm out in the hall. She is a consummate servant for this House.

For 35 years, she has given her life to the United States House of Representatives. I am deeply moved on this day, which is why I did my 1 minute from here, so I could address her and look her way and say: Well done, thy good and faithful servant.

There is no one who is more serious about the business of this House than Joyce Hamlett. She will be missed.

I know it is bittersweet for her, as well. I know she can't wait till she leaves, but as she thinks about it, it is not a happy day.

Let me wish her continued success. She has earned this retirement. She has earned this retirement, working with the Members that she has probably had come through this House. God bless her. I thank her, and may the Lord keep her.

COMMEMORATING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLINTON COUNTY FAIR

(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 commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Clinton County Fair.

For half a century, Clinton County has brought local artisans, talented agricultural professionals, and an eager community together, and I want to acknowledge and celebrate the fair's success.

With humble beginnings as a horse-and-pony roundup run on donated time in a horse ring near Pine Creek, Pennsylvania, the organizers of the small event had big aspirations. Turning the simple livestock show into a full-fledged agriculture extravaganza would be no small feat, accomplished through the hard work and gracious efforts of volunteers.

In the years to come, the determined fair committee and their community fought through the red tape and battled funding ordeals. After many years of hard work, they emerged with a fully-fledged fairground and all the resources to put on an impressive display of local agriculture.

Today's annual Clinton County Fair is a testament to the hard work, determination, and strong values that are essential to both rural communities and our Nation. By funneling resources into local agricultural economies, farmers and families alike reap the benefits of collective effort.

TRAGEDY IN CEDAR HILL, TEXAS

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

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, most of you have probably never heard of Cedar Hill, Texas, but you know their story. A gunman walks into a hospital, which should be a place of healing, and instead inflicts immeasurable pain and trauma.

That is the story of Cedar Hill on July 25, 2023, a terrifying day for my constituents but an ordinary day for America, at least the America of today where guns are gods and people are pawns, the America where the gun lobby wins and we the people lose.

People lose their lives. They lose a sense of sanity. We all lose a sense of security.

Make no mistake, when the radical right wins, we the people lose our rights.

They have no clue what it means to be truly pro-life. If they did, they would write or at least support legislation that meets the moment, a moment full of death and destruction that is crying out for solutions and sanity.

THREAT OF CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY

(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, as we know, the Chinese Communist Party poses one of the greatest existential challenges of our time.

Under President Xi Jinping, the CCP has made its intentions perfectly clear:

supplant the post-World War II international order created by the U.S. and forge a new world order led by China.

Clearly, the Biden administration is distracted from that. Time and again, this administration has projected weakness on the world stage and gotten bogged down by policies that only serve to divide our people and other silliness.

We can't afford to drop the ball on this critical matter. We must get tough on China and restore American greatness on the world stage by projecting strength, not weakness.

The CCP is only becoming more and more aggressive. Here are a few examples.

First is the issue of exit bans placed by the CCP on American citizens, including some of my own constituents. This behavior by the CCP needs to stop. We must find solutions for this dire issue facing American citizens.

Second, I was pleased to support prohibiting the CCP from acquiring American farmland, frequently near important military installations.

Third, we must deter any threat to Taiwan as well as Japan.

SECOND CHANCE FOR JUSTICE

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I grew up in Pacoima, California, a working-class neighborhood that was unjustly targeted by the justice system. It is a community that I am proud to currently represent.

There are kids like Jerome Dixon, who was wrongfully incarcerated as a child and locked up for 20 years because he was pressured into giving a false confession after 25 hours of interrogation without having an adult or a parent present with him. He spent 20 years of his life behind bars for a crime that he did not commit.

For over 25 years, I have worked to fix a broken system that has prioritized stuck-on-stupid incarceration over proven, effective rehabilitation. That is why, last week, I announced the "Second Chance for Justice Package" with my colleagues, Congresswoman KAMLAGER-DOVE and Senator CORY BOOKER.

These bills further invest in youth development and crime prevention programs. They will make our communities safer, reduce expenses for taxpayers, and demonstrate a real commitment to treating children with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting these common-sense bills. We owe our children a system that works with them, not one that is out to get them.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF EQUAL PAY ACT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this year, we recognize the 100th anniversary of the equal rights amendment. Today, I rise to commemorate, as well, the 60th anniversary of the Equal Pay Act of 1963.

Women in our Nation have made great progress in the fight for pay equality over the past six decades, but it is not nearly enough. We must close the gap.

Women in Ohio earn 79 cents for every dollar a man earns, and that is unacceptable. This pay gap has an impact on women's ability to excel in the workforce, pay for basic necessities, and build retirement savings for a successful future.

This pay disparity has remained relatively stable over the last 20 years, but this status quo will continue unless we work to close it. We must ensure equal compensation across the board and rightfully pay hardworking women their hard-earned dollars.

Women are invaluable members in every workplace and deserve equal compensation for equal work.

Let us prioritize closing the gender pay gap once and for all and lift up mothers, sisters, grandmothers, and daughters in our workforce.

TORNADO AT PFIZER FACILITY

(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. Mr. Speaker, last week, a tornado ripped through Rocky Mount, North Carolina, severely damaging one of Pfizer's key facilities. We are grateful there were no fatalities, and we thank God for the first responders who ensured our community's safety.

Even during times of adversity, Pfizer's CEO, Dr. Albert Bourla, made an extraordinary commitment to continue operations in Rocky Mount, the heart of North Carolina's First Congressional District, guaranteeing job security for the employees at this site and contributing to our local economy.

The decision to stay and invest in Rocky Mount preserves the livelihoods of thousands of employees and sends a powerful message.

As the recovery process continues, I genuinely appreciate the vital role Pfizer plays not only in the Rocky Mount community but across the East, America, and the world.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the businesses and residents affected by this natural disaster, please know I will stand with you.

SALUTING JOYCE HAMLETT

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I, too, rise today to salute our friend and patriot, Joyce Hamlett.

It is a surprise for some of us who wish that the news was not accurate, but I cannot miss an opportunity to call her a historic figure in this House.

Joyce made history as being named the custodian, the protector, of the mace. I can assure you, she handles this historic responsibility with grace, firmness, leadership, patriotism, and a love of country.

I do want to say that Joyce was a hero on January 6, 2021. It was Joyce's face that we looked at to get the original charge of getting to safety, of ensuring that the doors were closed. I heard her voice, and I saw her pointing, giving instructions to make sure that as Members finally discovered that we were under attack, we would be safe. She did not move to protect herself. She stood fast to ensure that Members had the right information to be able to be taken to or rush to safety.

Her family loves her. We don't realize that she has a wonderful responsibility of her grandchildren, and they have grown up under her. I have watched that happen.

Mr. Speaker, finally, let me say this: We will lose a great American. I hope as she goes in another direction, there will be others blessed by this grande dame, if you will, and this great American, a person who will always love this institution.

We will always love Joyce Hamlett and respect her for her service to the Nation.

God bless her, and God bless the United States of America.

□ 1900

RELAYING INFORMATION TO OUR CONSTITUENTS OVER THE AUGUST RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUTTRELL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, we are just 2 days away from the August district work period, and on Friday our colleagues will return home to our 435 districts across this great country.

I know on the Republican side everyone will be holding townhalls and roundtables, and they will meet with constituents and businessowners. They will be with the people that we represent here in the people's House. We have so much to relay to them.

This has been a busy 7 months in this Congress, and House Republicans have