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No. 209

House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 19, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore of this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, we pray to You often for discernment, for the ability to see what we are to do in a day, to understand what we are to do when faced with decisions and discover how we are to do what You call us to do when the path isn't clear.

And the answer You give us is so simple. You call us to do one thing before You grant us the insight we yearn for. You call us to love and to allow our love for You to increase more and more. The answer, You say, to all our doubts and fears, uncertainty and anxiety, is love.

Open our hearts, our minds, and our wills that we would grow in our ability to discover and then live into the love You first give us and come to trust Your divine will for our lives, even when we cannot see what that is. And in receiving Your love, may our love for others abound. In this may we grow in knowledge and discernment of Your gracious plan for us and for all creation.

Loving God, we yield ourselves to You and to Your design for us this day.

May we receive the true vision that comes when we seek to see through Your eyes.

In the love that is found there and then shared when we pray in Your name, may we discover the joy that is found in You.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore 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.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby submit my resignation, effective on December 31, 2023, as United States Representative of the 20th District of California. Attached is the letter I submitted to the Governor of California. It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent the great people and communities of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings counties over the past 17 years, and especially my hometown of Ba-

kersfield and the Central Valley of the great state of California.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 15, 2023.

Hon. GAVIN NEWSOM,
Governor, State of California,
Sacramento, CA.

DEAR MR. GOVERNOR: I write to inform you that I will resign my seat in the United States House of Representatives, effective on December 31, 2023, as United States Representative of the 20th District of California. It has been the honor of a lifetime to represent the great people and communities of Kern, San Luis Obispo, Los Angeles, Tulare, Fresno, and Kings counties over the past 17 years, and especially my hometown of Bakersfield and the Central Valley of our great state of California. I have great confidence that you will schedule a special election forthwith to ensure that our constituents in the 20th District of California will have their voices heard in the People's House as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Member of Congress.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 18, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 18, 2023, at 3:13 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 195.
That the Senate passed S. 382.
That the Senate passed S. 474.
That the Senate passed S. 2228.

□ 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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That the Senate passed S. 3553.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3315.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 62.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 63.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H.J. Res. 64.

Appointment:

United States—China Economic and Security Review Commission

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

ENROLLED BILL AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS SIGNED

Kevin F. McCumber, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly an enrolled bill and joint resolutions of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 3315. An Act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

H.J. Res. 62. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Michael Govan as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 63. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Antoinette Bush as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

H.J. Res. 64. Joint Resolution providing for the reappointment of Roger W. Ferguson as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(z) of House Resolution 5, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. on Friday, December 22, 2023.

Thereupon (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, December 22, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2577. A letter from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the National Emergency with respect to serious human rights abuse and corruption in Executive Order 13818 of December 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond December 20, 2023, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 202(d); (90 Stat. 1257) (H. Doc. No. 118—90); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-2578. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 22-079 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2579. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, De-

partment of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-060 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2580. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-054 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2581. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-057 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2582. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-047 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2583. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 23-044 Certification of Proposed Issuance of an Export License Pursuant to Sec 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2584. A letter from the Adjutant General, Veterans Of Foreign Wars, transmitting the proceedings of the 123rd National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, held in Kansas City, Missouri, July 16-21, 2023, pursuant to 44 U.S.C. 1332; Public Law 90-620, Oct. 22, 1968 (as amended by Public Law 105-225, Sec. 3); (112 Stat. 1498) (H. Doc. No. 118—91); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 1516. A bill to establish Department of Homeland Security funding restrictions on institutions of higher education that have a relationship with Confucius Institutes, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-319). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 4403. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make improvements to the Securing the Cities program, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-320). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 6174. A bill to improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-321). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. H.R. 6231. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require a prioritized policy issuance review process for the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-322). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4841. A bill to prohibit Federal agencies from restricting the use of convert-

ible virtual currency by a person to purchase goods or services for the person's own use, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-323). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4767. A bill to make revisions to the Federal securities laws with respect to shareholder proposals, proxy voting, and the registration of proxy advisory firms, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-324). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4823. A bill to provide enhanced reporting requirements for Federal banking regulators, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to remove the designation of Vice Chairman for Supervision of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-325). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4655. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from compelling the inclusion or discussion of shareholder proposals or proxy consent solicitation materials, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-326). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4768. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, with an amendment (Rept. 118-327). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4765. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to carry out a study on Chinese support for Afghan illicit finance, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-328). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6367. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to provide financial assistance to countries that receive an influx of civilian, non-combatant displaced persons stemming from the armed conflict that has resulted from Hamas's October 2023 terrorism in Israel, to be used for humanitarian aid for the displaced persons, with an amendment (Rept. 118-329). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6365. A bill to protect against illicit oil shipments, and for other purposes, with an amendment (Rept. 118-330). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri: Committee on Ways and Means. H.R. 6408. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations, with an amendment (Rept. 118-331). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 5921. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Treasury from authorizing certain transactions by a United States financial institution in connection with Iran, to prevent the International Monetary Fund from providing financial assistance to Iran, to codify prohibitions on Export-Import Bank financing for the Government of Iran, and for other purposes, with an amendment