

Socktober; impacting areas such as Haiti and as far as Tanzania.

Mr. Speaker, during National Mentorship Month, we celebrate the Alpha Academy.

#### PROMISES MADE PROMISES KEPT

(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, this week, President Donald Trump became the 47th President of the United States. He has immediately fulfilled his promises made promises kept on behalf of the American people with executive orders restoring common sense.

Led by the President, Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, and Senate Majority Leader, JOHN THUNE, Republicans are delivering an opportunity and a freedom agenda by putting America first again by working to cut taxes and ensure Americans keep more money in their pockets by creating jobs, secure the border to make American families safe again, unleash all-of-the-above-energy for American energy independence, and to provide for peace through strength with the American military.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators puts all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent as warned by the FBI. Trump is reinstituting existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

Americans appreciate the people of Venezuela standing up to the Maduro dictatorship.

#### REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

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

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is the 52nd anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision and reproductive freedom, and the lives and well-being of countless women in this country are under attack.

We are 1 week into the Trump administration, and House Republicans are already introducing draconian legislation to strip away the reproductive rights of women.

This legislation will exacerbate the growing crisis in reproductive healthcare, driving OB-GYN doctors out of the profession, and endangering the health of women. This cannot stand.

As the father of a 12-year-old daughter, I refuse to let her grow up in a world where she has fewer freedoms than the generations that came before her. That is why I am proud to announce that I have joined the House Pro-Choice Caucus.

As a California State Senator, I led legislation to protect and expand reproductive rights and abortion access, and I am proud to take up this fight in Congress.

Every person deserves the autonomy to make their own healthcare decisions, and we must continue to do everything we can to restore reproductive freedom and move our country forward. Women, not politicians in Washington, D.C., should be making their decisions on when, whether, and how to start a family.

□ 1215

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heart full of appreciation and gratitude as I say goodbye to many of the communities in Alabama's Second Congressional District that I have had the privilege of representing over the years.

On the plains of southeast Alabama is the city of Troy. Nestled on the northern outskirts of Montgomery is beautiful Wetumpka. At the end of the 118th Congress, I said goodbye to both of my beloved district offices in those cities.

As I reflect on my time serving south Alabama, it is not only the legislative victories and achievements that come to mind, but our constituent services and successes.

The generosity and warm welcome from the cities of Troy and Wetumpka, Mayor Jason Reeves and Mayor Jerry Willis, have allowed me and my team to grow and work diligently for the citizens of Alabama's Second Congressional District to achieve many victories.

To my staff who have helped me every step of the way, particularly to Bill Harris and Joan Cox who staffed those offices, I thank them. Their hard work and passion for public service have allowed benefits, dollars, and recognition to be restored to our citizens.

To the people of Alabama's Second, I am forever grateful for the trust they have placed in me and the successes we achieved together.

My commitment to serving Alabama remains steadfast. I will continue to carry the friendships and warmth of these communities with me into Alabama's First Congressional District. I thank them once again for their kindness and their unwavering support. It has been an honor to serve them.

May God continue to bless Alabama's Second Congressional District, the State of Alabama, and the United States of America.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 54

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Norman, Mr. McClintock, Mr. Grothman, Mr. Smucker, Mr. Carter of Georgia, Mr. Cline, Mr. Bergman, Mr. Roy, Mr. Stutzman, Mr. Moore of Utah, Mr. Estes, Mr. Brecheen, Mr. Obernolte, Mr. Carey, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Clyde, Mrs. Houchin, Mr. McDowell, Mr. Gill of Texas, Mr. Moore of North Carolina.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Steil, Chair, Mr. Loudermilk, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Murphy, Mrs. Bice, Mr. Carey, Ms. Lee of Florida, Mrs. Miller of Illinois.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 55

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET: Mr. Doggett, Mr. Scott of Virginia, Mr. Peters of California, Mr. Panetta, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Plaskett, Ms. Escobar, Ms. Omar, Ms. Balint, Ms. Kaptur, Ms. Jayapal, Mr. Tonko, Mr. McGarvey, Mr. Amo.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION: Mr. Morelle, Ms. Sewell, Mrs. Torres of California, Ms. Johnson of Texas.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES: Ms. Velázquez, Mrs. Dingell, Mr. Soto, Ms. Brownley.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM: Ms. Pressley, Ms. Tlaib.

Mr. AGUILAR (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1024(a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Joint Economic Committee:

Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Arizona  
Mr. BEYER, Virginia

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 471, FIX OUR FORESTS ACT, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 5, LAKEN RILEY ACT

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 53 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 53

*Resolved*, That at any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to commit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate

only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, last night the Rules Committee met and reported a rule, House Resolution 53, providing for consideration of two measures, the first of which is H.R. 471, the Fix Our Forests Act, to be considered under a structured rule.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources, or their respective designees, provides for one motion to recommit, and makes two amendments in order.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, under a closed rule. The rule provides for 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees, and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, we are here today to debate a rule on two timely pieces of legislation, beginning with H.R. 471, the bipartisan Fix Our Forests Act.

Mr. Speaker, according to the U.S. Forest Service, more than 1 billion acres of forest land are at risk of wildfire. Further, nearly one-fifth of all land overseen by the Federal Government is at high or very high risk of wildfire.

This didn't happen overnight. It is the result of the buildup of bureaucratic red tape, burdensome regulations, and frivolous legislation that have prevented forest management activities like thinning, prescribed burning, and mechanical treatment.

What we are left with are dangerous wildfires occurring at record levels and intensities. It doesn't have to be this way, though, Mr. Speaker.

The Fix Our Forests Act takes the proper steps toward restoring forest health, increasing resiliency to catastrophic wildfires, and protecting communities. It does so by reforming NEPA to expedite environmental reviews, reducing frivolous lawsuits, and increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects.

Additionally, H.R. 471 promotes Federal, State, Tribal, and local collaboration through the creation of a new fire-shed center. It will provide agencies

with new technologies and other critical tools which allow a quicker response to wildfires and the ability to implement the most vital forest management projects immediately.

As we are unfortunately seeing more frequently, active forest management techniques and a focus on forest health are needed now more than ever. This bipartisan product is a step in the right direction.

Mr. Speaker, the rule also provides for the consideration of S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, another bipartisan piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, Laken Riley was murdered in my home State of Georgia in February of 2024 by a Venezuelan man who was illegally present in the United States. He previously crossed our southern border in September of 2022, where he was paroled and released for further processing.

Between arriving here and committing his heinous act, the individual was arrested in New York and then again in Georgia for stealing from a Walmart. At the time of Laken Riley's murder, there was a bench warrant out for his arrest for failing to show up in court.

Mr. Speaker, S. 5, the Laken Riley Act, as amended, requires the Department of Homeland Security to issue a detainer for any individual inadmissible to the United States who is charged with, is arrested for, convicted of, admits to having committed, or admits to committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, shoplifting, assault of a law enforcement officer, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person.

Additionally, the bill grants the attorney general of a State the power to hold future administrations accountable by providing standing to bring civil action against Federal officials for the failure to enforce immigration statutes, including mandatory detention, individual parole authority, and visa sanctions.

I commend my colleague from Georgia, MIKE COLLINS, for his work on this legislation. I send my condolences to Laken Riley's family.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this rule. I look forward to passing this bill in the House for the third time and sending it to President Trump's desk.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, Republicans are bringing up a rule for two bills that will be debated on the floor this week. I look forward to that debate.

I feel compelled to focus on this majority's screwed-up priorities which now include handing a get-out-of-free card to KKK members, Proud Boys, and other criminals who violently beat cops within an inch of their lives on January 6, 2021.