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AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Dan Spexarth, St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Wichita, Kansas, offered the following prayer:

O Lord, our God, we ask You to abundantly bless these dedicated public servants and assist them in their tireless work on behalf of all Americans.

Give them clear minds to know Your will and understanding hearts, like King Solomon, to govern this vast people.

Fill them with courage and resolve and deep humility. Help them to listen attentively to one another and to work diligently with one another to find solutions to the challenges we face as a Nation. So many have worked so hard for so long. Let them not be dismayed or disheartened.

May the Prince of Peace protect the brave men and women of our military, deployed throughout the world. Please watch over their families here at home.

We give You praise, O Lord, and we give You thanks for our many blessings, especially our most precious gifts of life and liberty. We pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WALDEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WALDEN 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.

WELCOMING REVEREND DAN SPEXARTH

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. ESTES) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ESTES of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I have the great privilege to introduce the House to our guest chaplain, Father Dan Spexarth of Wichita, Kansas. As an ordained minister for more than 30 years, Father Spexarth has served six parishes in our community, including St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church in Wichita since 2008.

Father Spexarth was born and raised on a wheat farm near Colwich, Kansas. And after graduating from the seminary, we are fortunate Father Spexarth returned to our community.

Father Spexarth has been a tireless servant of God, leading an active parish committed to serving those in need in our community and throughout the world. As Congress addresses many complex issues facing our Nation, I am humbled by the opportunity to host Father Spexarth and thankful that we can join together in prayer for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming Father Dan Spexarth, and thank him for offering today's opening prayer in the U.S. House of Representatives.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NORMAN). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

PARDON STEVEN AND DWIGHT HAMMOND

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

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to raise an issue that would "shock the conscience." Those are not my words. Those are the words of a distinguished Federal judge when he refused to sentence two ranchers in my district to 5 years in prison. Judge Hogan looked at the case and he said: That is not right. It would "shock the conscience."

This Friday, the younger of those two ranchers will mark his fourth year in prison for starting a fire—by the way, fire on the range, high desert, is a management tool. They were using it for that purpose. They were tried. They were convicted. They never should have been sentenced to this.

The Obama administration came back and resented them to 5 years for 139 acres. We burn hundreds of thousands of acres every year. The government starts fires that burn onto private land. Nothing seems to happen.

It is time for the President to review this situation and to grant a pardon to

Steven and Dwight Hammond, pull them back together with their families. They have served long enough.

This is an issue that shocks the conscience. It is time for real justice, and President Trump can administer that.

AMERICA IS MEASURED BY GOODNESS AND PASSION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the communities I represent in Buffalo and western New York have a long, proud tradition of welcoming immigrants and refugees from all over the world. We are a city of good neighbors in a Nation of immigrants.

The Trump administration's imposition of a Muslim travel ban, proposals to build a wall, and egregious policy to terrorize kids and tear families apart appeals to the tribal instincts of the weak and the paranoid among us.

Americans respect the rule of law, hard work, and hard truth. We are measured as a Nation by power and strength, certainly, but equally by goodness and compassion.

These are the values that made America great again, again, and again.

CONGRATULATING MIKE EARL SMITH FOR WINNING THE TRIPLE CROWN

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, the Triple Crown is one of the most significant achievements in all of sports, but especially in the sport of horse racing.

In fact, it is such a rare achievement that only 13 times since 1875 has it been accomplished. This year, Mike Earl Smith, also known as "Big Money Mike," jockeyed his thoroughbred horse, Justify, to achieve the Triple Crown.

Now, the Triple Crown, in order to win it, you must win the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness Stakes, and the Belmont Stakes all in the same racing season. And Mike did just that. It was only the second time in the last 40 years that it has occurred.

Mike is the oldest jockey to ever win the Triple Crown. He was born in Roswell, New Mexico, and raised on a farm outside of Dexter, New Mexico. He has been racing since age 11. He won his first professional race in 1982 at the Downs at Santa Fe.

At one point, he broke his back and returned from that. In 2003, he was inducted into the National Museum of Racing Hall of Fame; in 2013, into the New Mexico Sports Hall of Fame. Winner of nearly 5,500 races, these three this year set Mike into the history books.

Congratulations, Mike.