

government is not shut down and that we go about the business of working on this year's budget, hopefully, reaching an agreement to reduce the cost of prescription drugs; to reduce the cost of healthcare; to protect people's insurance for preexisting conditions; and maybe, just maybe, reach an agreement on a bipartisan infrastructure package. That is the business at hand, and that is what we ought to be focused on.

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
MERCED

Mr. COSTA. Finally, on an upbeat note, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the University of California at Merced in my district being named one of the country's universities of the year by Education Dive, which honors education's top innovators.

One of the newest research universities in the entire country, it is a testament to UC Merced's forward-thinking approach, which has been integral in increasing opportunity to improve the quality of education for California's San Joaquin Valley and the entire system of the University of California.

UC Merced prides itself in having the largest share of low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students among all the University of California's campuses. It is the first minority-majority campus in California, with over 8,000 students.

It has been a pleasure to watch the university grow over the last 13 years and an honor to meet its educators, students, and alumni who make up a tight, close-knit community.

Go Bobcats.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 49 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

As we meditate on all the blessings of life, our fervent prayer, O God, is that people will learn to live together in reconciliation and respect so that the terrors of war and of dictatorial abuse will be no more.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly in the important, sometimes difficult, work they do. We thank You for having in-

spired those who fashioned a bipartisan agreement earlier this week. Continue to give all Members wisdom and charity that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam 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. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ALLEN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING SOJOURNER TRUTH

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

Mr. DELGADO. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Sojourner Truth. Born a slave in Ulster County in 1797, she ran away to freedom with her infant daughter in 1827. She then challenged the illegal sale of her son to a slave owner and was the first Black woman to win such a case against a White man. She spent the rest of her life as a national leader in the abolitionist movement, challenging the norms of her time by advocating for gender and racial equality and for the right to vote.

Her bust is displayed here in the Capitol in Emancipation Hall, the first sculpture here to honor an African American woman.

It is an unbelievable honor as well as incredibly humbling to stand here dur-

ing this Black History Month, as the first African American Congressman from Upstate New York, to recognize the life of a true American hero.

I hope and pray that we as a nation continue to honor her legacy and so many others who have committed their lives to ensuring America live up to the promise of true equality for all.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

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

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to legislation that my Democratic colleagues are pushing to raise the Federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour—more than double its current level.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I participated in a hearing last week to speak against this radical proposal that will hurt low-skilled workers and small businesses the most. I am a proud small business owner, and I know for a fact that businesses pay wages according to their employees' skill set. In a free enterprise environment, a growing economy grows jobs which grows opportunities which grows wages.

I believe you reward a good day's work, but my Democratic colleagues don't want to believe that we can produce economic opportunity in concert with growing wages without the government interfering.

Signing the front of the paycheck and providing folks with a good job has been one of the greatest privileges of my life. That is why I oppose the Raise the Wage Act. This one-size-fits-all, top-down government regulation will destroy millions of hard-earned jobs and restrain our growing economy.

Democrats should focus on economic growth and getting the American people back to work, not an unpopular, progressive agenda.

HONORING THE FAMILIES OF VETERANS

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, last year, veterans from northern California brought an issue to our attention. Due to a flaw in the current law, the Department of Veterans' Affairs cannot include almost any information about the spouse of a veteran on a VA-provided tombstone at a non-VA cemetery.

That is why last week I introduced the Honoring Veterans' Families Act to rectify this issue and allow the spouse of a veteran to be included on the veteran's grave marker on their death.

With all that veterans and their families sacrifice for this country, is that too much to ask?