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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Kyle Wright II, Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School, Collinsville, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, amen.

I thank and praise You, Heavenly Father, for moving each and every one of these men and women to serve this country which You sustain in Your mercy. Watch over them this day that Your will be done in their discussions, decisions, and, most of all, their actions.

You are the God of all power and might who, out of love for Your creation, established order from chaos, peace from discord, and life from death.

For the sake of Christ Jesus our Lord, forgive us of our pride, our disobedience, and our poor stewardship of what You have placed into our care. According to Your mercy, open the eyes and hearts of Your people so they may know the depth of Your love found only in Christ Jesus.

Dear Lord, I commend to Your care our Congress, our government, and our Nation, as You judge and keep us according to Your just mercy.

In Jesus Christ our Lord, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) come

forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STAUBER 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 KYLE WRIGHT II

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank and welcome Pastor Wright. Pastor Wright serves as pastor of my home congregation, Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Collinsville, Illinois.

He received his undergraduate degree from Concordia University in Austin, Texas, and a master of divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He is currently pursuing a master of sacred theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

He has served as a pastor for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod since 2006. During that time, he has also served as a resource hospital chaplain, hospice chaplain, and on multiple boards.

His wife, Keri, is the help, support, and love of his life. They have four beautiful daughters. Katie is 12; Gwen, 10; Lilli, 10; and Magie, also 10.

Yes, you heard it right, triplets.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, MERRIMACK VALLEY GAS EXPLOSIONS

(Mrs. TRAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in recognition of a tragic anniversary that the residents of the Merrimack Valley will never forget.

Tomorrow marks 1 year since a cascade of explosions in Lawrence, Andover, and North Andover, Massachusetts, damaged over 130 homes and businesses, burning several to the ground.

At least 20 people were sent to the hospital. A Lawrence police officer, Ivan Soto, lost his home while aiding his community. Shakira Figueroa was seriously injured, and a young man, Leonel Rondon, lost his life.

An NTSB investigation revealed a series of failures by the gas company as it replaced pipelines in the area. Oversight allowed the full flow of high-pressure gas to enter a low-pressure distribution system.

In April, I introduced the Leonel Rondon Pipeline Safety Act to prevent this type of disaster from ever happening again. We owe it to the Sotos, the Figueras, the Rondons, and the many other families who suffered on September 13 to pass strong pipeline safety legislation this year.

THANKING THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY VOLUNTEER RESCUE SQUAD

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude for the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad, located in northern Minnesota, and their quick response to an emergency that took place in my district a little over a month ago.

□ 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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At the end of July, a group of Girl Scouts traveled to northern Minnesota to experience the beauty and magnificence of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. Their trip unexpectedly hit a rough patch when severe thunderstorms rolled in and lightning struck close to their campsite. A few of the girls reported feeling something from the ground, potentially a ground current, and needing precautionary medical attention.

The Boundary Waters Canoe Area is very remote, making any rescue attempt more complex and rigorous. Nevertheless, the St. Louis County Volunteer Rescue Squad members immediately sprang into action, navigating five portages by motorboat and then canoe, escorting the girls back to safety.

Mr. Speaker, I am thankful that the Northland has such a capable and well-trained group of individuals dedicated to the safety of our neighbors and visitors. Due to their hard work over the years, many emergencies have been averted and lives have been saved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MARCA BRISTO

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we lost my dear friend, Marca Bristo, an inspiring civil rights activist from Chicago.

Marca had a diving accident when she was young that left her paralyzed from the chest down. She never allowed her disability to define her. Instead, her disability became her superpower.

Marca dedicated her life to changing laws and bringing attention to the disparities faced by people with disabilities in the most basic services. She was instrumental in bringing wheelchair ramps to Chicago public buses.

She didn't do this by just writing letters or holding meetings. Marca went as far as chaining herself to a bus to force the Chicago Transit Authority to make mass transit more accessible.

She worked with the broader civil rights communities to pass key legislation like the Americans with Disabilities Act. The organization she founded, Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago, will carry on with her legacy.

I send our heartfelt thoughts to her son and her daughter.

Rest in power, Marca Bristol.

HONORING THE SIMPSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Simpson County Historical Society and its long-reaching influence on Simpson County and the surrounding communities.

Since its founding in 1959, Simpson County Historical Society has been a

valuable asset to the First District of Kentucky. Through the collection and preservation of historical property and genealogical records, the society has been able to maintain an extensive archive for the benefit of future generations.

I applaud the work the society has done over the last 60 years, and I am pleased to say that, as of Thursday, September 12, they will have expanded to a newer, larger facility enabling them to increase their research capabilities and broaden their effect on local education and cultural development.

I join with the residents of Simpson County and the local community, as well as those who have benefited from the work of the Simpson County Historical Society, in honoring their incredible dedication to the preservation and promotion of history. I wish the historical society the best as they begin a new phase of their own history and express my gratitude for their service to the First District of Kentucky.

WE NEED A RESET

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, we have a crisis in housing, in homelessness, growing wealth inequality, and it is all not an accident. It is the result of deliberate discrimination and policy failure.

The Federal Government, for years, intervened in housing for White veterans, for middle-class homeowners, for developers and property owners, but shut out poor and, especially, people of color—African Americans, most notably. Trump is making it worse.

Tonight, 550,000 people will go to sleep homeless. We have a gap of 7 million affordable rental units, and income inequality grows. We need a reset.

Last week, I released this report, "Locked Out: Reversing Federal Housing Failures and Unlocking Opportunity," which details solutions for our most vexing housing policy challenges. It is available on blumenauer.house.gov website.

We must be bold, transformative, and ambitious in solving these challenges. We can't afford another generation of small-scale thinking and large-scale failure.

CELEBRATING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

(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 celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Jefferson County Courthouse in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

Since its opening in 1869, the Jefferson County Courthouse has undergone serious renovations and changes, but its impact on the community remains steadfast. County Commissioner Jack Matson said: "You really can't be a resident of Jefferson County and not have the courthouse affect your daily lives."

Tomorrow, the Jefferson County community will come together to celebrate this milestone on the courthouse grounds in Brookville. The programming will include tours of the courthouse, a performance by the Punxsutawney Area High School marching band, a reenactment of the trial of abolitionist Judge Elijah Heath, and the dedication of a World War II monument. The evening will conclude with the lighting of the bell tower and a special rig designed by students at the Jefferson County-Dubois Area Vocational-Technical School.

Jefferson County Commissioner Jeff Pisarcik said it best when he said: "It's not our building; it's everybody's building that lives in Jefferson County."

HONORING THE SERVICE OF TOM FERRARESE

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my longtime friend and Monroe County Board of Elections commissioner, Tom Ferrarese, as he begins his retirement.

For more than two decades, Tom has served our community with distinction at the Board of Elections, working tirelessly to expand access to voters, safeguard our elections, and uphold the democratic process.

Tom has been a passionate political and community activist, working diligently to advance the ideals of the Democratic Party, not just through his work at the board, but through his extensive volunteer and community advocacy on behalf of LGBTQ individuals.

It has been a true privilege to work alongside Tom, and our entire community is grateful for his many years of service. I wish him nothing but a well-deserved rest, relaxation, and best wishes in retirement.

□ 0915

RECOGNIZING U.S. SPACE COMMAND

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize our newest combatant command: U.S. Space Command, which was stood up on Monday in Colorado Springs.

President Trump's decision to stand up SPACECOM could not be more timely. In recent years, Russia and China have reorganized their militaries and