

mothers and adopting families, but it will also provide more pricing stability to the overall fees that families pay during an adoption. Adoptions often cost tens of thousands of dollars, which is a financial impediment to families making this life-affirming choice. Injecting more price predictability into the adoption system may be the help that families need when making the decision to adopt.

Last Congress, bipartisan legislation that I introduced to reduce known barriers for foster placement was signed into law. This bill builds on that effort to improve adoption outcomes, and we all will remain committed to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to grow up in a safe and loving home.

RECOGNIZING ANN LETORT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to congratulate the faculty, staff, and students of Ann LeTort Elementary School in the Penn Manor School District on being recognized as the 2019-2020 National Blue Ribbon School.

Mr. Speaker, the National Blue Ribbon Schools program was founded nearly 40 years ago to recognize outstanding public and private schools, who are making a difference and exemplify excellence. LeTort Elementary was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap Closing School.

I would like to thank Penn Manor superintendent Dr. Michael Lechlitter, the Penn Manor School Board, and the leadership and teachers at Ann LeTort Elementary for working very hard for this achievement. We know how a quality education prepares students for success throughout the rest of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, in their application for recognition, school principal Mrs. Carly McPherson notes that, "it is evident how individuals throughout the community are vested in the education of every LeTort student."

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate that community for making a difference in the lives of their students and for being recognized as a National Blue Ribbon School.

RECOGNIZING ALABAMA'S 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Mrs. ROBY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an important time in Alabama's history.

I am proud to lead the efforts joined by my colleagues from Alabama in introducing a resolution today, which honors the 200th anniversary of Alabama's statehood.

On December 14, 1819, Alabama was incorporated into the Union as the 22nd State. December 14, 2019, will mark 200 years since the historical day of our State's incorporation. This is a monumental occasion in our State's history, and we are looking forward to joining Alabamians in a year full of memo-

orable celebration and commemoration of the bicentennial.

It is my greatest honor to represent and serve the people of Alabama's Second Congressional District, which includes Montgomery, our State's capital city. Alabama is currently experiencing extreme economic development and job growth across the State, which makes this special time even more exciting for us all.

I join my colleagues in recognizing this milestone in our State's history. I am grateful to have the opportunity to serve the people of Alabama as we celebrate the birthday and history of the beloved State we all call home.

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 35 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Bless all Members with wisdom in good measure—pressed down, shaken together, and running over—that the legacy of great legislators of our history might be carried on with integrity for the benefit of all.

In the proceedings this day, may all Members be impelled by the spirit to perform as their best selves, mindful of the great responsibility they have to remain faithful to the Constitution which guarantees all of our security as Americans.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. 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 pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. CRAIG 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Miss Kaitlyn Roberts, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

RESPONDING TO RAIL-BASED INCIDENTS

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, last weekend, a train derailed in Niagara Falls, New York, tossing several cars filled with butane on their side within yards of neighborhoods, residences, and local restaurants.

The Niagara Falls Fire Department and Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station responded quickly and, fortunately, this time, the emergency didn't rise to the level of placing the community in great danger.

According to the United States Department of Transportation, over 1,300 train derailments took place in 2018 alone, leaving no doubt that situations like this will occur again.

That is why I have introduced, along with Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER, the Fire Department Proper Response and Equipment Prioritization Act. This bipartisan legislation ensures that our brave first responders have access to Federal grants that support the specialized training and equipment necessary to respond to rail-based incidents, making the safety of our communities a priority.

THE TIME TO PASS THE USMCA IS NOW

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1