The House met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. Wexton).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:


I hereby appoint the Honorable Jennifer Wexton to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER
Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

Good and gracious God, we pray that You send down Your Holy Spirit to dwell in this place. May Your purifying light cast out all evil and darkness. May it cast out evil spirits of discord and division. May we welcome into our hearts Your unity, Your love, and Your peace. We pray this in Your holy name. Amen.

THE JOURNAL
The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 844, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
The Speaker pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Speaker pro tempore 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.

ADJOURNMENT
The Speaker pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(b) of House Resolution 844, the House stands adjourned until 11 a.m. on Friday, February 21, 2020.

Thereupon (at 10 o’clock and 51 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, February 21, 2020, at 11 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

3837. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a letter reporting violations of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1351; Public Law 97-258; (96 Stat. 926) and 31 U.S.C. 1357(b); Public Law 110-161, Sec. 1357(b); (121 Stat. 2286); to the Committee on Appropriations.

3838. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office’s Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901a(5); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 251A (as added Public Law 112-25, Sec. 302(a)); (123 Stat. 256); to the Committee on Appropriations.

3839. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office’s Report to the Congress on the Joint Committee Reductions for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 901a(5); Public Law 99-177, Sec. 251A (as added Public Law 112-25, Sec. 302(a)); (123 Stat. 256); to the Committee on Appropriations.

3840. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the September 2019 report on the Improved Turbine Engine Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2422(b)(1); Public Law 97-252, Sec. 1107(a)(1); (96 Stat. 740); to the Committee on Armed Services.

3841. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting the Bank’s FY 2021 Annual Performance Plan and FY 2019 Annual Performance Report to Congress, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635g(a); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 8(a) (as amended by Public Law 93-464, Sec. 10 (88 Stat. 2336) and 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3842. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration’s FY 2019 FISMA Report; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3843. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the Office’s Congressional Justification, Annual Performance Plan, and Annual Performance Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

3844. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission’s combined Annual Performance Plan for FY 2020-21 and Annual Performance Report for FY 2019, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867) and 5 U.S.C. 306(a).
H. R. 5924. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program to encourage specialty medicine physicians to serve in rural communities, to increase the supply of specialty medicine physicians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. NORTON:
H. R. 5925. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program of voluntary separation incentive payments for nonjudicial employees of the District of Columbia courts and employees of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. PALLONE (for himself and Mr. McGovern):
H. R. 5926. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for expedient restorations of advance-notice communications service networks during times of emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 5927. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to study American dependence on unsafe Chinese pharmaceuticals and to empower the Food and Drug Administration to mandate drug recalls in the case of critical contamination; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WALDEN:
H. R. 5928. A bill to repeal the requirement to reallocate and auction the T-Band spectrum, to amend the Wireless Communications and Public Safety Act of 1999 to clarify acceptable 9-1-1 obligations or expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. KELLY of Mississippi:
H. R. 5921. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself and Mr. Grijalva):
H. R. 5922. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:
H. R. 5923. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By Mr. MCKINLEY: (for himself and Mr. Welch):
H. R. 5924. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution, which provides Congress with the ability to enact legislation necessary and proper to effectuate its purposes in taxing and spending.

By Mr. POSEY:
H. R. 5927. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. WALDEN:
H. R. 5928. Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the Constitution, which grants Congress the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.
EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COURTS AND PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE VOLUNTARY SEPARATION INCENTIVE PAYMENTS ACT

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the District of Columbia Courts and Public Defender Service Voluntary Separation Incentive Payments Act. This bill, which passed the House in the 114th Congress, would make a small but important change to the authorities of the District of Columbia Courts (D.C. Courts) and the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS), giving them the same authority federal agencies and federal courts already have to offer voluntary separation incentive payments, or buyouts, to their employees.

We were able to get buyout authority for the D.C. Courts and PDS in fiscal year 2020 in the recently enacted spending bill. However, my bill is necessary to make this authorization permanent. Buyouts would allow the D.C. Courts and PDS to respond to future administrative and budgetary needs, and would provide the flexibility to extend buyout offers to their employees.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office has determined that voluntary separation incentive payments may be made only where statutorily authorized. Federal agencies and federal courts already have the statutory authority to offer buyouts, and there is no reason why the D.C. Courts and PDS should not have the same express authority in order to manage their workforce as budget conditions and needs change.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON
OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 18, 2020

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was absent from a vote which occurred on February 13th. I was with the Vice President of the United States, meeting with constituents, in my congressional district and unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted Nay on Roll Call No. 70 (H.J. Res. 79).

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.
Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.
Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action
The Senate was not in session and stands adjourned until 2:30 p.m., on Thursday, February 20, 2020.

Committee Meetings
No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action
Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 8 public bills, H.R. 5921–5928, were introduced. Page H1164
Additional Cosponsors: Pages H1164–65
Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.
Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Wexton to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. Page H1163
Guest Chaplain: The prayer was offered by the Guest Chaplain, Monsignor Stephen J. Rossetti, Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Page H1163
Quorum Calls—Votes: There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.
Adjournment: The House met at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Committee Meetings
No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings
No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020
(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate
No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House
No hearings are scheduled.
Next Meeting of the SENATE
2:30 p.m., Thursday, February 20

Senate Chamber
Program for Thursday: Senate will meet in a pro forma session.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
11 a.m., Friday, February 21

House Chamber
Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 11 a.m.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE
Mullin, Markwayne, Okla., E191
Norcross, Donald, N.J., E191
Norton, Eleanor Holmes, The District of Columbia, E191
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Congressional Record