

declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 50 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. YARMUTH) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

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

We ask Your continued protection and empowerment of those who tend to the sick and those who seek medical solutions to this dangerous pandemic.

We thank You for the work of the House these last few days to bring to votes support for the Department of Agriculture. During these times, food production, delivery, and access have been among the many challenges facing our Nation.

Whatever the particulars of this legislation, may it proceed through the legislative process and ultimately redound to the benefit of all Americans.

We ask also Your continued protection and empowerment for those who live heroic lives during this time. Give them strength and perseverance in their service.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER 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 PRO TEMPORE

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

HONORING FORMER MAYOR PAUL GAINES, SR.

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a Rhode Island legend, the late former mayor of Newport, Paul Gaines, Sr.

At a moment in our Nation's history, when we are again confronting the torment of generations of racial inequality, and collectively working to repair the soul of America, Paul Gaines will be remembered as a trailblazer in the fight for equal justice under the law.

As New England's and Rhode Island's first Black mayor, Mayor Gaines was an inspiration, an educator, a soldier, a mentor, and a change-maker who succeeded in every endeavor by bridging divides and leading with humility and integrity.

When he died last Thursday, at the age of 88, Mayor Gaines left behind an enormous legacy.

As an activist, he spent a decade of his life working to build a memorial to the First Rhode Island Regiment, a Continental Army regiment that is best remembered today for recruiting Black soldiers to serve during the Revolutionary War.

In these recent years, he continued his work to ensuring equality of opportunity regardless of one's race, who they are, or where they came from.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my deepest sympathies to his wife of 61 years, Jo Eva, and to the entire Gaines family.

CELEBRATING ARTHUR ETZLER'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, born in Lavaca County, Texas, Arthur Etzler is a native of the 27th Congressional District of Texas. July 2, 2020, is his 100th birthday, but that is not the only thing remarkable about Arthur.

On September 22, 1942, Mr. Etzler pledged his service to the Army's 88th Division, 149th Infantry Regiment, Company H, otherwise known as the Blue Devils, to fight in World War II.

Arthur's service took him across the world. He defended freedom in Morocco, North Africa, Rome. He completed his tour in Germany, where he shared a brief and joyful reunion with his brother, Hubert.

Private Etzler's service did not go unnoticed. His courageous fight in the Po River Valley earned him three Bronze Stars. General George C. Marshall once stated that Mr. Etzler's first division "fought like wildcats."

After his service, Arthur returned stateside to Hallettsville, Texas. There, he found the love of his life, Rosemary, his sweetheart of now nearly 73 years. Together, they built their home in Hallettsville and raised six children.

Arthur's service to others never ceased. His life is marked with decency and strength. Mr. and Mrs. Etzler remain active members of their church and community, where they are known for their dedication and kindheartedness.

Arthur has lived a life that reflects the spirit of this Nation, and for that, we thank him.

Happy birthday, Arthur. God bless.

TIME TO LEGALIZE MARIJUANA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, night after night, young people in Portland, joined by thousands of their neighbors, gathered to demand justice that Black lives matter. Yet, today, thousands are caught in the legacy of Richard Nixon's cynical "War on Drugs." It targeted young, and especially Black people, for selective enforcement. Too many are in jail or prison for nonviolent, often trivial offenses.

Today, over two-thirds of Americans—and the majority of Republicans—think that cannabis should be legal. Let's pass the MORE Act, with many of BARBARA LEE's marijuana justice provisions already approved by the Committee on the Judiciary. Stop discriminatory, selective enforcement. Let's legalize it and stop enforcement all together.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to finally protect young Black Americans from the dangerous, discriminatory, selective enforcement on the War on Drugs. Time to finally legalize marijuana.

CELEBRATING LIFE, LIBERTY, PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS THIS JULY FOURTH

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, on July 3, 1776, John Adams expressed his belief that the signing of the Declaration of Independence should be commemorated "with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more."

Well, I actually think we are going to check most of those boxes this July 3 in South Dakota in the beautiful Black Hills, as President Trump is there to watch fireworks over the incredible Mount Rushmore.

Now, I know there is a lot of political unrest in this country. On any given day, there is plenty of political unrest in this Chamber. But July Fourth should be a time for us to come together and celebrate what binds us together: life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H. RES. 1036

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, and to honor a day that unites us as Americans, I ask unanimous consent that the

Committee on Oversight and Reform be discharged from further consideration of H. Res. 1036, and I, furthermore, ask for its immediate consideration by the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is advised that under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Speaker's ruling, but nevertheless, I wish the United States of America a very happy birthday.

INVESTING IN OUR NATION'S INFRASTRUCTURE

(Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act. This infrastructure bill invests in our roads, bridges, transit systems, schools, housing, clean water systems, and so much more.

Importantly, it will create good-paying jobs, repair critical infrastructure, address the climate crisis, and create healthier and safer communities. I am proud that this bill includes key provisions that I championed in Congress, including repairing our natural gas pipelines to prevent methane leaks, investing in our public buildings to make them more energy efficient, and incentivizing our Nation's ports to reduce harmful emissions. These investments are a down payment on our Nation's future, and they will, indeed, help us move America forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the passage of H.R. 2.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF USMCA IN WASHINGTON

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement going into effect today and to recognize the important role this critical trade agreement play for my district in central Washington.

In 2019, Washington State exports to Canada and Mexico totaled \$11.1 billion. Now, due to the challenges of the pandemic on our economy, the USMCA is more vital than ever to provide freer markets, fairer trade, and more economic opportunity in Washington.

This modernized trade agreement will promote the potential for small businesses to aid in the growth and recovery of our State's economy, and it will provide for expansion of equitable trade opportunities for many of central Washington's farmers and ranchers.

The implementation of the USMCA comes at a crucial time for the American economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have supported this trade agreement on behalf of people in central Washington, particularly knowing that my constituents will benefit at a time when they need it most.

SUPPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FOR AMERICA

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, this afternoon, the House will vote to approve a \$1.5 trillion transportation and infrastructure bill.

This American nation-building program will be the largest in American history. The Public Works Administration of 1930s spent nearly \$700 billion in today's dollars. This building program will more than double that investment, creating millions of jobs in the construction trades, jobs in the supply and materials industry, and jobs in the engineering and design industries as well.

The program is good for economic growth at a time when our Nation is desperate for economic growth. For every dollar invested in infrastructure, that investment returns \$1.80, or an 80 percent return on investment, to the United States economy.

The President and both political parties have promised a robust infrastructure investment. Now is the time to reconcile that rhetoric with action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of this bill.

HIGHLIGHTING COVID-19 DEATH STATISTICS

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we have heard several speeches this morning about the COVID epidemic.

Like a lot of Americans, every day, I like to get up and see whether we are moving in the right direction or not. I was sad to see this morning—I checked the Worldometer's website because a lot of my constituents tell me that is the one to check, and I was sad to see that, this morning, when they gave the number of deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, they list 764 Americans who had passed away.

However, the Worldometer website kind of goes up and down by the day. It is always very low on Sunday and Saturday. It gets higher on Wednesday and Thursday.

However, I did notice that the 764 deaths yesterday, on Tuesday, was the lowest on a Tuesday since March 23.

Mondays are always very low. We had 366 deaths on Monday. That was also the lowest since March.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we continue to have the progress as we work the number of people who die of this hor-

rible disease down every day, but I have a feeling that a lot of Americans are being misled. So I am just pointing out the way these statistics are going.

CONDEMNING ATTACKS UPON PRESS IN AMERICA

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the free press in America.

I can't believe that I have to say this, but our free press is under attack—physical attack. As Americans have taken to the streets to demand change in the wake of George Floyd's murder, we have seen our First Amendment trampled as hundreds of journalists have been arrested and assaulted by law enforcement officers.

In the past few weeks, members of the press have been detained, gassed, shot at. One reporter lost an eye when she was targeted with rubber bullets, and the most infamous example was the attack upon peaceful protestors and journalists gathered outside the White House.

Mr. Speaker, a free press is one of the most fundamental and cherished values in our country, predating our Constitution. It stems from 1735 when John Peter Zenger was arrested and charged with sedition for criticizing a corrupt British governor of New York.

A free press is one of the most basic ways we hold our government accountable.

On the eve of our Nation's birthday, I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in sponsoring H. Res. 999, which condemns attacks upon the press and the detention of journalists and reaffirms the value of a free press to our democracy.

□ 1015

USMCA GOES INTO EFFECT TODAY

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, a day that the farmers of Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District have been looking forward to is finally here. Today marks the day the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or USMCA, goes into effect.

Over a year ago, I stood here in the Chamber and said one thing I can tell you about the farmers of the 11th District is that they adapt and hold on to hope that better times are yet to come. With the USMCA now in effect, better times are indeed on the way.

I am very proud to represent Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District. It is the number one district for agricultural production in Pennsylvania.

The USMCA is a win for farmers, with a number of provisions included that will give the farmers in my district a level playing field and open new