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House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, the recent numbers are staggering: 500,000 deaths from COVID, 58 people who have died in the winter storms of the last 10 days, and at one point 4 million households were without power in Texas.

In the face of the enormity of these figures, we come to You this day at a loss for words, few answers, and in some cases no hope.

Speak to us, O infinite Lord. How precious are Your thoughts, how vast is their sum. If we could count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. You who have determined the number of the stars and call them each by name, great are You our Lord and mighty in power. Your understanding has no limit.

In Your attention to us, You have numbered the hairs on our heads. We ask then that You would heal the brokenhearted and bind up their wounds. Cover us with Your eternity. May we rest secure in knowing that You will never leave nor forsake us.

It is in the strength of Your everlasting name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 5(a)(1)(A) of House Resolution 8, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

ELECTING A MEMBER TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 146

Resolved, That following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Ms. Tenney (to rank immediately after Mr. Meuser).

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

EDUCATORS OWED BASIC PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as we celebrate Public Schools Week, to talk about the urgent need to protect our teachers, educational support staff, all of their fami-

lies, and the community at large in our schools.

While the national debate has centered around schools that are closed, in many States, such as Georgia, school districts with high COVID transmission rates are back to in-person teaching, but often without basic safety standards in place, such as requiring students to wear masks on school property.

Teachers and staff in Georgia do not enjoy the protection of strong teacher unions, and the State has exempted schools from liability around COVID. A teacher recognized for excellence in Forsyth County, in my district, chose to quit her job.

She wrote me, saying: Fortunately, my family earns enough money for me not to return to teach, but there are some others who don't have this blessing and are forced into dangerous circumstances. They can't speak up. They know their employment would be on the line if they did. So unless others like me speak up and out, this mess will continue.

Mr. Speaker, I join this teacher in speaking out. We owe our educators the courtesy of basic public health protection. We owe them prioritization in receiving the vaccine.

PARIS ACCORD DESTROYS JOBS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, it has been estimated the Paris Accord adopted by President Joe Biden will destroy 2.7 million American jobs.

The Washington Examiner, on January 26, exposes more dangers to American families:

"President Biden's decision to rejoin the Paris climate accord immediately delivered . . . a gift to China.

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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