

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HARDY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HARDY 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 CLARENCE A. WILLIAMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome my friend and fellow Floridian, Reverend Clarence A. Williams to the House floor as our guest chaplain.

Pastor Williams is a lifelong public servant and trailblazing leader in the Tampa Bay community. He serves as the senior pastor of the Greater Mt. Zion AME Church in St. Petersburg, Florida, which I have the honor to represent here in the Congress.

Pastor Williams is a man of great wisdom and he is a man of action. In 2013, Pastor Williams formed Cross and Anvil Human Services, Inc., a nonprofit organization which works to close the educational, digital, and wealth gap for our neighbors in Tampa Bay. He is a founding member of Men in the Making, a youth mentoring organization; Life member of the NAACP; and board member of the Community Health Centers of Pinellas County.

His unwavering commitment to the St. Petersburg community is displayed daily in his advocacy for education, civil rights, and equal opportunity for all of our neighbors.

He is a native of Bartow, Florida, where he attended Bartow High School, and later Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tennessee. He is married to Mrs. Andrea P. Williams, and they have two lovely daughters.

Mr. Speaker, I ask everyone to join me in thanking Pastor Williams for leading today's opening prayer, and I thank him for his outstanding service to the St. Petersburg community.

HELPING REFUGEES REBUILD—INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

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

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, on International Day of Peace, to applaud the efforts of Connect2Peace, the Peace Coalition the Rock River Valley, to draw attention to the plight of children and refugees whose lives have been forever disrupted by war.

Tonight, Rockford University and Connect2Peace will host a conversation on "How to Help Refugees Rebuild their World," featuring Melissa Fleming, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

As chief spokesperson, Ms. Fleming speaks around the world on behalf of the more than 65 million vulnerable and voiceless people, half of which are children who are displaced from their homes by war, conflict, and persecution.

Helping refugees rebuild amid war and poverty is difficult and complicated, but there is hope. Groups like Kids Around the World in Rockford have stepped in to feed children and help them enjoy their disrupted childhood through donated playground sets.

People like Denny Johnson, founder of Kids Around the World, and U.N. Commissioner Melissa Fleming work tirelessly to bring hope into seemingly hopeless situations.

As an executive committee member for the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, today I urge us to pray and act for peace in our world.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee). The Chair will entertain up to 14 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

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

Ms. HAHN. Mr. Speaker, every year, from September 15 to October 15, our Nation marks Hispanic Heritage Month to celebrate the enduring contribution of Latinos throughout our country's history.

I am proud to represent a district that has been shaped and bolstered by generations of Hispanic Americans as well as recent Latin American immigrants.

Los Angeles County is home to great Hispanic leaders, like Long Beach Mayor Robert Garcia, L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis, and State Senator Ricardo Lara. For the first time in history, our California State Legislature is led by two Latino lawmakers, Senate Pro Tem Kevin de Leon and Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon.

California is proof that diversity is a strength and something we must recommit to and celebrate. That is why we must, as a nation, condemn attempts to demonize, marginalize, and scapegoat immigrant families. We are better than that as a country.

We need to stop playing politics with people's lives and finally do our jobs and pass comprehensive immigration reform that fixes our broken immigration system and lives up to our American values.

We can be better. Let us recommit to these values while we mark this year's Hispanic Heritage Month.

CONGRESSMAN JEFF MILLER HAS MADE A DIFFERENCE

(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, I am grateful that in my service I began as a member of the unique class of 2001. These were Members elected in special elections that year, including now-U.S. Senator JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas, along with chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, JEFF MILLER of Florida, and chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, RANDY FORBES of Virginia, both of whom are now concluding their House service.

Since being elected to the House, Chairman JEFF MILLER has demonstrated his remarkable leadership as a member of the House Armed Services Committee, the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and as chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Chairman MILLER has been a dedicated advocate for troops, veterans, and military families. He has also worked tirelessly to hold the Department of Veterans Affairs accountable to ensure our servicemembers receive the best care. A Trump administration would have an excellent Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

I appreciate Chairman MILLER, his wife, Vicki, and his family for honorably serving the people of the First Congressional District of Florida. Roxanne and I will always treasure them as champions for American families.

Godspeed, JEFF and Vicki.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

AMERICAN ECONOMY IS STRONGER UNDER DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, let's bury a myth, the persistent claim that Republicans are better at managing the economy than Democrats.

Under President Obama, we have come a long way since the dark days of the Bush-era Great Recession. And whether you look at the past 7½ years under President Obama or the past 70 years since Truman, the Democratic