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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Throughout history, You have been ever-present to all believers. In times of darkness, we readily turn on lights. Millions of Americans in this season have variously turned to the celebration of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, and the Advent and Christmas season with its trees and lights.

Even so, in our political world, there remains the reality of considerable disagreement and contention. Where there is darkness here, send forth a spark of inspiration and grace to enlighten minds and warm hearts to respond to Your love for Your people.

Eternal Father of us all, fill Your children with the delight that comes from light. May we walk no longer in the darkness of distrust but join together in mutual understanding and peace toward the common well-being of our Nation.

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

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SHERRILL 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.

PASS ANOTHER ROUND OF HELP

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

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, it has been more than 250 days since we passed the CARES Act, and it is past time that we pass a second round.

When this pandemic hit, despite being in one of the most partisan times in our Nation's history, we came together in Congress to pass badly needed help for the American people: PPP loans for small businesses; State and local funding to help with contact tracing, testing, and grants to those in need.

We passed an eviction moratorium so people could stay in their homes and nutrition aid for the millions of families who suddenly are experiencing food insecurity.

Now that we have good news about vaccines, now that we have hope for the future, we have to pass another round of help so businesses can make it through the winter, children can have access to food, families can stay in their homes, and kids can get back to school.

There is a bipartisan deal that the Senate and House Members are on board with, a deal that would provide relief to millions.

Let's once again show the American people that we are there for them when it counts.

HONORING THE CAREER OF LISA PITTMAN

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I called Lisa Pittman, who is the counsel for our committee, to make sure we had somebody covering us for floor time.

She chastised me then, saying that under my condition, I need to ask about calling a doctor first, not calling a lawyer.

No, Lisa, we call you not just for legal advice but for all sorts of things. For 38 years, she has been a true public servant, with 33 consecutive years here in the House where she has served with poise under pressure and always brings an air of stability.

We ask opinions of a lot of people, but we always double-check by going to Lisa because she understands it all.

She served under 17 Republican leaders in Natural Resources. I still think I am her favorite one—trust me. But even yesterday, she still told my chief of staff that she gets choked up when she looks at the Capitol dome or hears the Pledge of Allegiance. It is still magical to her.

As our committee mom, when she brings cupcakes to everyone on their birthdays and special occasions, her kindness is magic to the rest of us.

So, when I leave at the end of the month, no one is really going to care. When Lisa leaves at the end of the month, it is going to take decades to replace the institutional knowledge that she brings to this place.

Lisa, we thank you. And, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your indulgence.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SENATOR PAUL SARBANES

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I join Members of the Maryland delegation in praising a great man, Paul Sarbanes.

The people of Maryland and all Americans have lost a leader and a public servant of dignity and principle, Senator Paul Sarbanes.

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