□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Return to us, O God; dwell in the midst of us, in this place, in our cities, neighborhoods, and Nation, that we would again acknowledge You. May You see reason to call us faithful, and may we reflect Your glory to all who would see.

In You, may both youth and those of age find reason to be joyful. May all marvel at Your handiwork, Your steadfast love, and Your saving mercy.

Cause our hands to be strong to do the work You have set before us. Sow Your peace in the fields of our hearts and bring forth Your fruit in the garden You have called us to attend. Give increase to our fellowship and pour out on Your house a spirit of compassion and mutual concern.

We give ourselves over to Your instruction to speak truth to one another, to render judgments that are true, and to find solutions which lead to peace.

May we not harbor ill will in our hearts against each other, but may we be intentional in making this a time of cooperation and kindness.

In You do we find truth and hope, and in Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. CLINE 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

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

HONORING JESUS ''CHUY'' NEGRETE

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to honor the life of a community icon, an incredible storyteller, and a powerful voice of the Latino and labor rights movement, my dear friend Jesus ''Chuy'' Negrete.

Chuy was born in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, but grew up in Chicago's southeast side.

Through his corridos, or folk songs, Chuy elevated the work of Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers and national Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

Whether he was in the back of a pickup truck or in a parking lot, he would be there and he would play his heart out.

His music resonated with the Mexican-American community because it reflected the daily struggles of workers and immigrants.

Chuy loved to add humor to his lyrics, because he understood the power of making people laugh, especially during the toughest times.

He believed in the importance of honoring your roots and heritage, encouraging youth to learn about their culture and history, reminding them of its riches.

I thank Chuy for his music, for always conveying a sense of courage, giving us animo, giving us resolve, and encouraging us to stick together.

Rest in power, my friend.

IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE IS A TOP PRIORITY

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, since I came to Congress 3 years ago, I have made it a top priority to work toward improving our Nation's infrastructure. I have repeatedly advocated and testified for repairing and expanding our roadways and bridges across the Sixth District, including Interstate 81, the economic backbone of the Sixth Congressional District.

But the Senate agreement up this week allocates just $110 billion for roads and bridges, less than 15 percent of the total bill's funding.

Further, House Democrats are tying its passage to the $4.3 trillion tax-and-spend boondoggle they call human infrastructure.

The bill includes $7.5 billion to create a Civilian Climate Corps to promote the Green New Deal, $80 billion for the IRS to double the number of agents that will target American families and businesses, and provides a zero percent increase for Homeland Security as the Biden border crisis continues to worsen.

Additionally, the bill provides $42.3 billion in tax credits for the wealthy, while at the same time raising $2.1 trillion in higher taxes on the middle-class families and job creators.

With inflation on the rise and unprecedented levels of government spending driving up our national debt, we cannot afford this loaded legislative package.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose both of these bills when they come before the House.

HEALTHCARE DISPARITIES

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the COVID–19 pandemic exposed the fragility and disparities of the American healthcare system, particularly in underserved communities.

Through the American Rescue Plan, Congress is seeking to close these disparities to make healthcare more accessible, with greater quality, through Federally Qualified Health Centers.

The American Rescue Plan funding released this week builds on this model, supporting improvements to facilities across the Nation, including $2.2 million in new funding for western New York.

Health centers serve as trusted messengers and providers to connect with hard-to-reach patients. Investing in these health clinics' infrastructure will deliver healthcare savings, better health outcomes, and overall healthier communities throughout America.

SUPPORT FOR THE BUREAU OF PRISONS REFORM CAUCUS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the Bureau of Prisons Reform Caucus and my thanks to Chairman FRED KELLER.

Earlier today, I participated in a meeting discussing the important issues and the goals of the caucus, which are aimed at improving and enhancing the existing relationship between Congress and the Federal Bureau of Prisons. This is done through increased communications, transparency, and efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, I represent two Federal prisons: Federal Correctional Institution Loretto, located in Loretto, Pennsylvania, and Federal Correctional Institution McKean, located in Lewis Run, Pennsylvania. It is critical Congress continues to support these hard-working men and women at these Federal institutions.

As a member of the Bureau of Prisons Reform Caucus, I will work to oversee the implementation of the programs laid out in our legislation.

From improving staffing conditions to implementing the First Step Act to expanding current technical educational opportunities for inmates as they look to find a better place in society, it is important we understand the actions taking place in our Federal prison system.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that this caucus continues to meet and improve the relationship between Congress and the Federal Bureau of Prisons.