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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: Almighty and merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members disperse to their various districts and our Nation prepares to celebrate Memorial Day, may we all retreat from the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self, and for so many, of life, would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

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.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. HULTGREN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a

quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. HULTGREN 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CELEBRATING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF RUTH RICHARDSON

(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 to celebrate the long and fruitful public service of a member of my staff, Ruth Richardson.

With degrees from Aurora and Northern Illinois Universities, Ruth began her career as an admissions counselor at Aurora University.

In 1990, she started her service to the U.S. House of Representatives as a caseworker in the office of Congressman Dennis Hastert. The caseworker plays a central role in a congressional office as the primary advocate for constituents having challenges with the Federal Government, and Ruth excelled at her job.

For 26 years, she worked tirelessly to help seniors who were having trouble obtaining their Social Security benefits or to help veterans in search of medical care or military acknowledgment of their service, and she spearheaded the U.S. annual Congressional Art Competition to showcase the young talent in Illinois.

To many, Ruth has been a strong ally navigating the intricate and arcane Federal bureaucracy. I was thrilled Ruth joined my team when I first entered Congress in 2011, and she has delivered professional and caring service to the 14th District residents. Everyone who comes in contact with Ruth is warmed by her selfless heart and willingness to help. In many ways, she is irreplaceable, and we will greatly miss her as she retires at the end of this month.

Ruth, it is now time for you to enjoy your family and your next adventure in life. Don't be a stranger to the office. And may God bless you in your retirement.

REMEMBERING AUBURN POLICE OFFICER RONALD TARENTINO

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Officer Ronald Tarentino, a member of the Auburn Police Department in Massachusetts, who was tragically shot and killed in the line of duty this past weekend.

Officer Tarentino exemplified the courage and dedication that defines our incredible men and women in blue. His neighbors and friends described him as a "gentle giant," a "great guy," and "always willing to help." He always kept an eye out for the 91-year-old widow living across the street.

Remembering Officer Tarentino this week, Auburn Police Chief Andrew J.

□ 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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