

years of surprising and celebrating the amazing women in Galveston, we get to surprise her by celebrating her. Surprise, Gina.

Gina's ability to build effective relationships with elected officials has facilitated numerous achievements.

She championed the creation of Lemonade Day to help today's youth become the business leaders, the social advocates, the community volunteers, and the forward-thinking citizens of tomorrow.

In times of adversity, Gina's resilience and commitment shine through. Just 2 months after Hurricane Ike wreaked havoc on Galveston Island, she spearheaded a successful recovery expo that enabled local businesses to reopen their doors. This initiative garnered State and national recognition, showcasing Gina's effectiveness in driving impactful initiatives. Gina's compassion extends beyond our District 14 and its borders.

Gina's remarkable leadership has been widely acknowledged. In December 2022, the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce received a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the highest rating in the industry. Out of the 7,000 chambers in the Nation, only 142 hold this prestigious distinction, with the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce being just 1 of 27 in Texas and the only one in Galveston County, not to mention all of the awards and recognition she has received and all the boards she sits on and has sat on.

As I said, I could go on and on.

Madam Speaker, we thank Gina for two decades of remarkable service, but let us also celebrate the values of dedication, leadership, and community that she embodies.

Gina's legacy is one of inspiration, and we are grateful for her tireless efforts to make Galveston a better place. Congratulations on her outstanding achievements. May her journey ahead be as bright and rewarding as the path she has for our community.

I thank Gina for her unwavering commitment to Galveston and the Texas Gulf Coast. We are very blessed to have her in our lives, and I can't wait to cheer her on as she continues leading this chamber to greatness.

WE MUST BAND TOGETHER TO ADVANCE AMERICAN INTERESTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, today Congress returns to session after a 6-week break, and I hope we are all motivated by the input we heard while back home with the same people who sent us here to represent them in the body.

I am urging my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to put the partisan rhetoric aside and get to work on delivering results for the American people.

I ask that we start by addressing the funding of our government via the ap-

propriations process to ensure we do not have a government shutdown.

A vast majority of Americans are struggling to make ends meet, and a lot of those folks are in our Nation's Armed Forces. A shutdown would only hurt the very people who are putting their lives at risk for all of us.

Madam Speaker, I am certain that we can all rise above the din of the media's attempts to influence what comes out of these Chambers.

I believe we can set aside our political differences and work together for the sake of our country, just as we did 22 years ago following the tragedies of 9/11.

Let's not forget that in the most solemn times in our Nation, we all banded together the strongest to advance America's interests.

Madam Speaker, I would like to end with observing a moment of silence in recognition of all who have fallen due to the unspeakable acts of September 11, 2001.

NATIONAL TRUCK DRIVER APPRECIATION WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize America's 3.5 million truckers during National Truck Driver Appreciation Week.

Truckers are the unsung heroes of our supply chain. Each year they drive over 320 billion miles—the equivalent of nearly 13 million trips around the globe—to deliver 11.5 billion tons of freight.

Every one of those miles represents a stocked store shelf, a package placed on a household doorstep, materials delivered to a manufacturer, and equipment conveyed to a construction site.

I am proud of America's dedicated truckers, including the 66,830 professional drivers in North Carolina. Today, 23 North Carolinians from the trucking industry are on Capitol Hill sharing their stories.

Additionally, a North Carolina driver with over 2 million accident-free miles is demonstrating a simulator to staffers and my colleagues to share the perspectives of truckers.

I look forward to thanking these individuals in person for the work they do.

BOWMAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I recently had the pleasure of visiting Bowman Middle School in Mitchell County to view the school's International Space Station, ISS, contact project.

Thanks to the diligent work of Dan Hopson, a STEM teacher at the school who has a penchant for securing these kinds of opportunities, this project was able to come to fruition. Students were able to ask a variety of questions in real time via ham radio to Warren Hoburg, a NASA astronaut who suc-

cessfully traveled to the ISS on March 3 of this year.

This impressive event was one that these students will surely remember as they continue their educational journeys. Hopefully, some will be inspired to engage in careers in STEM areas.

Congratulations to Dan Hopson, Principal extraordinaire Amber Young, and the dedicated staff at Bowman Middle School who made this event and this learning opportunity such a success.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

God, You are our refuge and our strength, an ever-present help in times of trouble. We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our world where thousands have been killed in the earthquakes in Morocco and thousands more have died in the floods in Libya. Make Your presence known in the rescue and relief efforts that none will fear, though entire communities fall into the heart of the sea.

We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our country, where countless families still mourn the loss of their loved ones in the horrific events of 9/11 and the wars that followed. Make Your presence known in their sorrow and grief, that none will fear the upheaval of their lives, for You, O Lord of hosts, are with them.

We seek shelter in You in these days of great challenge in our Congress, where the waters of discord roar and foam. Make Your presence known, for You, O God, are in the midst of us. Utter Your voice and melt the ground that separates us from the direction You would have us go.

In these days of great challenge, let us then be still and know that You are God. In Your everlasting name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.