

HOUSE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, REGULAR SESSION

PROCEEDINGS

FOURTH DAY — TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2021

The house met at 1 p.m. and was called to order by the speaker.

The roll of the house was called and a quorum was announced present (Record 28).

Present — Mr. Speaker(C); Allen; Allison; Anderson; Ashby; Bailes; Bell, C.; Bell, K.; Biedermann; Bonnen; Bowers; Buckley; Bucy; Burns; Burrows; Button; Cain; Canales; Capriglione; Cason; Clardy; Cole; Coleman; Collier; Cook; Cortez; Craddick; Crockett; Cyrier; Darby; Davis; Dean; Dominguez; Dutton; Ellzey; Fierro; Frank; Frullo; Gates; Geren; Gervin-Hawkins; Goldman; González, J.; González, M.; Goodwin; Guerra; Guillen; Harless; Harris; Hefner; Hernandez; Herrero; Hinojosa; Holland; Howard; Huberty; Hull; Hunter; Israel; Jetton; Johnson, A.; Johnson, J.D.; Johnson, J.E.; Kacal; King, K.; King, P.; King, T.; Klick; Krause; Kuempel; Lambert; Landgraf; Larson; Leach; Leman; Longoria; Lopez; Lozano; Lucio; Martinez; Martinez Fischer; Metcalf; Meyer; Meza; Middleton; Minjarez; Moody; Morales, C.; Morales, E.; Morales Shaw; Morrison; Muñoz; Murphy; Murr; Neave; Noble; Oliverson; Ordaz Perez; Ortega; Pacheco; Paddie; Parker; Patterson; Paul; Perez; Price; Ramos; Raney; Raymond; Reynolds; Rodriguez; Romero; Rose; Rosenthal; Sanford; Schaefer; Schofield; Shaheen; Shine; Slaton; Slawson; Smith; Stephenson; Stucky; Talarico; Thierry; Thompson, E.; Thompson, S.; Tinderholt; Toth; Turner, C.; VanDeaver; Vasut; Vo; Walle; White; Wilson; Wu; Zwiener.

Absent, Excused — Anchia; Beckley; Bernal; Campos; Deshotel; Sherman; Smithee; Swanson; Turner, J.

Absent — Rogers.

The invocation was offered by Representative Moody as follows:

Members, I'm a Catholic, and we have a very formal way of praying. But many beliefs are represented here in the house, and I want to join us all together, so no Latin today. Instead, Lord, I just want to thank you. Even as we're all being tested, you've given us a country defined by freedom and fairness. You've given us the opportunity to fight for both equality and equity among Texans. And above all, you've given us each other. We'll need to lift each other up over the next 126 days regardless of party and simply as people. We know you're here today and in everything we do, from meetings with constituents to committee hearings with our colleagues to the quiet moments we have with our families in between.

The book of Matthew tells us that whenever we gather, you, too, are there. As members, it's easy to forget why we're here, to let ego or vanity or even fear lie to us about how important we are. But I'm reminded of something from Mark, chapter 4. After a day of teaching, Jesus' disciples began to take him across a lake. A storm rose up, but even as wind and rain and waves battered the boat, Jesus slept calmly at the stern of the ship. Eventually, his disciples abandoned their posts and woke him, terrified. But Jesus calmed the sea and sky with a word. "Why are you so afraid?" he asked. "Do you still have no faith?" I think about that in troubling times, times like we've had lately.

God is here and in control. But Lord, we know that it's not as simple as saying, "Jesus take the wheel," because just as the disciples were in charge of the boat but faltered, we must be courageous in the task you've given us. Although this ship won't go where you don't want it to, you've put us at the helm for now. We must do our part. That's why we ask for both your guidance and for the strength to follow it, knowing that you're beyond simple politics. Thank you, God, for this opportunity to be of service. It's in your name we pray. Amen.

The speaker led the house in the pledges of allegiance to the United States and Texas flags.

LEAVES OF ABSENCE GRANTED

The following member was granted leave of absence for today and tomorrow to quarantine:

Beckley on motion of C. Turner.

The following member was granted leave of absence for today and tomorrow because of important business:

Anchia on motion of C. Turner.

The following member was granted leave of absence for today because of important business:

Swanson on motion of Vasut.

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today because of important business in the district:

Bernal on motion of C. Turner.

Campos on motion of C. Turner.

Smithee on motion of Darby.

J. Turner on motion of C. Turner.

The following members were granted leaves of absence for today and tomorrow because of illness:

Deshotel on motion of Bowers.

Sherman on motion of Collier.

(Rogers now present)

RECESS

Representative Buckley moved that the house recess until 10 a.m. tomorrow in memory of Jim Kilpatrick of Killeen.

The motion prevailed.

The house accordingly, at 1:07 p.m., recessed until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

