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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A 21ST CENTURY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee for their support last week in passing a reauthorization that I offered, the Carl D. Perkins Act, in the form of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

Now, I am proud to say that this bill passed unanimously out of committee, which is good news because a reauthorization is badly needed.

It is no secret that our country continues to face significant economic challenges, and it is no surprise that many men and women are worried about their futures and their family's future. Last week a Gallup poll found that 54 percent—just 54 percent—of Americans believed today's young people will live a better life than their parents.

As a father, I can say there is nothing a parent wants more for their children than a life that is better than their own. When you hear that only half of all Americans expect their children to have a brighter future than they did, it becomes clear that we need to do better. And we can do better, not just for our own kids, but for the neighbor who can't find a job, the friend from church who struggles to make ends meet, the family that has been trapped in poverty with no pathway out, or the high school student who struggles and has no hope or inspiration that he or she has what it takes to succeed.

With the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, we have an opportunity today to advance reforms that will help these and many other Americans, especially young Americans, obtain the knowledge and skills that they need to break the cycle of poverty and to achieve a lifetime of success. This bill will modernize and improve current law to better reflect the challenges and realities facing students, workers, and employers.

The bill will empower State and local leaders by simplifying the application process for receiving Federal funds and providing them more flexibility to use those resources to respond to the changing education and economic needs. These reforms will help State

leaders focus on preparing students for the workforce—not duplicative or overly prescriptive Federal requirements—and enable them to determine the best way to do so.

To increase transparency and accountability, H.R. 5587 streamlines performance measures to ensure secondary and post-secondary programs deliver results, helping students graduate, prepared to secure a good-paying job or further their education. The bill also includes measures to provide students, taxpayers, and State and local leaders the information that they need to hold CTE programs accountable for delivering those results.

Finally, H.R. 5587 will reduce the Federal role in career and technical education and limiting opportunities for the Federal Government to intervene in State and local decisions and preventing political favoritism.

This is a bipartisan bill, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their help in creating it. I look forward to seeing it on the floor of the United States House of Representatives hopefully in the near future.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this month we mark the first anniversary of an historic agreement between Iran and six major world powers, including some of our key western allies, plus Russia and China.

The agreement was designed to force Iran to back away from the nuclear threshold, acquiring nuclear weapons, which everyone agreed would be a disaster.

Instead of sober reflection on the success of the agreement, where we are and where we are going, we will, instead, be discussing legislation that is

□ 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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designed to have the United States break that agreement. In a very dangerous world, that agreement has made us a little bit safer. This would be a mistake of tragic proportions to undermine it.

Last year, Prime Minister of Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, on this House floor, as part of his campaign to scuttle a potential agreement, warned that Iran was on the verge of acquiring nuclear weapons as thousands of centrifuges were whirling to enrich uranium.

While today, 14,000 centrifuges have been removed from service and placed under international supervision. Iran has removed nuclear material from its once secret facility at Fordow. It has reduced its stockpile of enriched uranium from 12,000 kilograms, with a purity as high as 5 percent, to only 300 kilograms, with a purity of no more than 3-2/3 percent. The core of the heavy water reactor at Arak has been filled with concrete. These are not abstract numbers and mere technicalities. Iran has adhered to the agreement, making a nuclear breakout harder, and take longer.

Make no mistake, Iran has some unsavory hardline people in key positions of leadership, but not everyone. President Hassan Rouhani has been a voice of and a force for moderation. The Iran people voted for him as a repudiation of the hardliners.

The Iranian people are still the most pro-American in the region, where even some of our allies have large anti-American populations. The majority of the Iranian people still like us, despite the fact that America cooperated with Britain to overthrow their popularly elected government in 1953 and install the Shah as dictator, despite the fact that the United States backed Saddam Hussein in the bloody Iraq-Iran war where we would later send American troops to overthrow him. At that time, he used poison gas—and we did nothing to stop him—against Iranians and against some of his own people.

The relationship with Iran is important to not just controlling nuclear threats. Iran is going to play a key role in this troubled area as the major Shia power. Our war against Iraq created huge problems, not just in Iraq, but Syria and Afghanistan. Iran will always play an outsized role. The question is, can we work with them toward peace and reconciliation?

I, for one, will vote against efforts to undercut the agreement when, after a year, all the evidence that I have seen is that the agreement is working and that Iran is complying.

I am encouraged that there is a memorandum of understanding with American company Boeing and Iran to purchase 80 jet airplanes and lease another 29, supporting over 100,000 jobs in the United States over the next decade. Rather than unwinding this agreement, people should support and strengthen it.

Notably, our other partners in the agreement have already started to take

commercial advantage. I would rather have American jobs at Boeing than have Airbus sell even more planes to Iran or the French Bombardier manufacturer. The rest of the world has moved on and America should not move backward.

In a troubled world, an opportunity to strengthen ties with a former enemy through trade, job creation, and bringing us a bit closer together should not be a major cause for concern. It should be a cause for celebration.

REMEMBERING MIKE RHYNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mike Rhyme, a great man and a friend from Rutherford County, North Carolina.

Mike served as an alderman for Ellenboro, the same town where his brother, Jim, serves as mayor.

Ellenboro is a small town, but they don't actually view themselves that way. In fact, Mike and his late wife, Pat, were instrumental in starting the town's yearly festival. When they decided to figure out a name on what to call it, they called it "Ellenboro's Big Day." That was sort of Mike's personality coming through in just the naming of that event. In fact, Mike gave me a T-shirt—and I still have it—"The Big Day" T-shirt that he gave me a few years ago.

Mike also really deserves a lot of credit for restoring the old Ellenboro train depot and transforming it into the town's history museum. In this history museum, they pay tribute to the countless veterans that grew up, were raised, and came home to Ellenboro and to those that gave their lives in the service of our country. That really pays a special tribute to the community.

To Mike's family, I extend my sympathies. Ellenboro and Rutherford County have lost a true public servant, and I have lost a good friend.

RETIREMENT OF CATAWBA COUNTY CHAMBER
PRESIDENT DANNY HEARN

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I also rise today to honor a great man and a great friend, one of my constituents from Catawba County.

Dave Hearn has served as president of the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce and has done so for the last 12 years. He recently announced his retirement from 43 years of work with chambers of commerce throughout the southeast.

Danny is a graduate of Lenoir-Rhyne University. Shortly after graduation, he went to work at the local chamber of commerce as an intern, and that career would last him until actually just a few months from now.

He served local chambers, rising through the ranks from Norfolk, Virginia; Rockingham, North Carolina; Statesville, North Carolina; and he will finish his career in Hickory.

Danny is well known for a couple of different things in the community. Danny is most well known for his commitment to small business. He has fought tirelessly on behalf of the small business community and the business community generally.

In fact, one of the greatest accomplishments at the Catawba County Chamber of Commerce under Danny's leadership is the Edison project, a competitive contest that awards much-needed start-up capital to local entrepreneurs. He began this initiative in the midst of one of the worst economic downturns in western North Carolina history.

Danny knows that the backbone of our local economy and the backbone of our country is small business. He understands that small business development is the key to our region's economic development, growth, and recovery.

Danny's work with small businesses has truly paid off. Recent statistics show that wages in Catawba County are growing at a faster rate than most counties in the country, and this is a great success under Danny's leadership.

Danny is also extraordinarily well known for his love of golf. Danny's second-to-last day on the job in September will be hosting the chamber's annual golf tournament. What a fitting way and a truly poetic way for Danny to end his chamber career. He will be doing two of the great things that he is passionate about: working with small businesses leaders and playing golf.

So to Danny: You will truly be missed in Catawba County. Your leadership will be truly missed. However, your impact will be felt for generations to come. We thank you for your leadership, and I thank you for your friendship.

ADDRESSING SECURITY THREATS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. ASHFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, we should not leave on the longest summer break in more than three decades while our Nation faces serious security threats.

There is no greater responsibility for this body than to keep our communities and our families safe. We face real threats from around the world, from the Zika virus, cyber threats, China, Russia, and North Korea. All of these demand attention, but we must act now to destroy ISIS.

The campaign of destruction waged by ISIS has created the worst crisis in the Middle East in a generation and is threatening American lives at home and abroad.

When I traveled to the Middle East 17 months ago, I came home and said that this must be our top priority. Congress must come together to develop a comprehensive strategy that attacks ISIS on all fronts, online and on the ground,