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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. JOHNSON of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON 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 3, 2017, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the privilege of touring Pennsylvania's only State-owned 2-year technical college, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, named after an individual, a former Member of Congress that served in the era of Abraham Lincoln in this Chamber. I was pleased to be in Lan-

caster with my colleague, Representative SMUCKER.

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology provides a bridge out of poverty for some of the poorest citizens of Pennsylvania through a high-skill, high-wage technical education. Graduates are filling the skills gap in America, as there is a 99 percent placement for graduates of its high-demand programs.

Founded in 1905, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology educates Pennsylvania's economically and socially disadvantaged students as well as other qualified students for skilled employment in a diverse and ever-changing workforce. It offers 22 innovative technical-based majors that educate students for numerous job opportunities. From architecture to automotive studies and from masonry to mechanical engineering, there are many career paths for students to pursue.

The hands-on nature of the program allows students exposure to the experience, problem-solving ability, and skills that will be used throughout their careers. Many students enter the workforce after their studies, while others may choose to pursue higher level degrees at 4-year colleges and universities.

Thaddeus Stevens College is also aware that the cost of education often places a financial strain on both the student and their family. Grant programs are offered to assist students who are financially disadvantaged to serve a rich diversity of students.

Last month, I was proud this House unanimously approved my bill, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. The legislation aims to restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity because all Americans deserve a good-paying, family-sustaining job.

CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certifi-

cation and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school in skills-based education programs or in colleges like Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. By modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs, we will be able to connect more educators with industry stakeholders and close the skills gap that is in this country. There are good jobs out there, but people need to be qualified to get them.

I have proudly championed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act because it puts emphasis on advancing policies and promotes good-paying jobs, and it works to see that everyone from all walks of life can have the opportunity to succeed. Mr. Speaker, I witnessed this firsthand at Thaddeus Stevens College.

This school is an outstanding example of the transformative power of education. The college is a national leader in technical workforce development, and it works to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty for millions of students through career and technical education.

For the fourth consecutive time, The Aspen Institute has named Thaddeus Stevens as the top 2-year technical college in Pennsylvania. I congratulate the school and all of its students. It is truly a shining example of strong career and technical education programs at work, and its graduates enter the workforce armed with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed and pursue the American Dream. They are learning to earn.

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENTS AS CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I think the President has a lot to learn about families. In my opinion, families

□ 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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