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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. BARTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 7, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOE BARTON 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.

HONORING ED GILROY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and say farewell to a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce staff who has dedicated more than 20 years of public service to the people's House.

Ed Gilroy began his congressional career on the staff of former Congressman Rod Chandler of Washington, but most of us know him for his nearly 16

years of service as the committee's Director of Workforce Policy.

Ed led our efforts to expand access to affordable healthcare for small-business employees, provide moms and dads more flexibility in the workplace, and protect the rights of workers and employers. When we think about the passage of the bipartisan Pension Protection Act in 2006 and the Multiemployer Pension Reform Act of 2014, we have to think of Ed.

Ed Gilroy has been a trusted adviser, dedicated public servant, distinguished colleague, and an invaluable member of our committee family. We are deeply grateful for his many years of service to the American people and the U.S. House of Representatives, and we wish him all the best in the years ahead.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST CHARTER SCHOOL

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, something monumental occurred for students and families who were seeking a new way to pursue a high-quality education. Twenty-five years ago, our Nation's first charter school, the City Academy, opened its doors in St. Paul, Minnesota. City Academy began a new era for school choice and provided families with an alternative option to the traditional public school system. Today, over 3 million students are enrolled in charter schools, and more than 6,800 have opened in over 40 States.

Charter schools are not only growing as an option for students, but these schools are also getting results. Innovative charter schools are providing thousands of students and families with the hope and opportunity that they can receive a high-quality education and gain the skills they need to succeed for the future.

I congratulate City Academy for being a true pioneer in school choice 25 years ago and support the expansion of school choice for American students and families.

HONORING ALEXANDER FURNITURE ACADEMY

Mr. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the efforts of the CVCC Alexander Furniture Academy, located in Taylorsville, North Carolina. This fantastic facility hosts a program where students are taught the basic skill levels required to gain employment as a sewing operator or upholstery craftsman within the furniture trade.

Under the leadership of Center Director Eunice Mays and thanks to the generous scholarships awarded by many groups like Craftmaster Incorporated, AHFA, and others, nearly 50 students have graduated, and almost all are now employed.

I wholeheartedly commend Eunice and the Alexander Furniture Academy as well as all of its sponsors for putting together a program that doesn't just teach valuable skills to would-be job seekers, but a program that literally helps individuals build the skills they need to succeed from the bottom up.

In the last 6 months, students have crafted 90 sofas and chairs and 20 loveseats which have been sold. The profits from the students' creations are invested in scholarships and help to keep the academy open.

I commend the Catawba Valley Community College Alexander Furniture Academy teachers, staff, and students on this terrific program.

FUNDING FOR THE FAA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BASS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my dissatisfaction at the majority's failure to allow consideration of amendments I proposed to the appropriations bill that include funding for the FAA. The Rules Committee did not forward those items so my colleagues could consider and vote on them.

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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