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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. RICE of South Carolina).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 29, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM RICE 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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BUCKTAIL MEDICAL CENTER'S TIMOTHY REEVES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Bucktail Medical Center CEO Timothy Reeves for receiving a Community Star from the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health.

Community Stars recognize men and women nationwide who work to improve, protect, and advance health and

wellness for those living in rural America.

Timothy Reeves is the chief executive officer at Bucktail Medical Center, which is a critical access hospital, skilled nursing facility, community clinic, and BLS ambulance service in Renovo, Pennsylvania, in Clinton County. It is the only medical facility for more than 30 miles in any direction. Bucktail Medical Center is believed to be the most remote hospital in Pennsylvania.

When Timothy came to Bucktail, the small hospital was on life support. The organization had significant financial issues, but it had a dedicated, strong-willed staff and supporting board. Through a carefully planned financial restructuring process, Timothy has helped bring the facility back to life. It is growing, modernizing, and acquiring the equipment, technology, and provisions needed to advance healthcare for the community.

Mr. Speaker, thanks to Timothy and his team, Bucktail is looking towards the future, and the community is grateful for it.

CONGRATULATING DR. LORRAINE ROSAMILIA

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a Centre County dermatologist for being named one of Pennsylvania's Top Physicians Under 40 by the Pennsylvania Medical Society. Dr. Lorraine Rosamilia, a native of Lock Haven, Pennsylvania, treats skin conditions and skin cancers in patients of all ages at Geisinger Health System in State College.

In 2018, she will serve as the president of the Pennsylvania Academy of Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery. She attended medical school and residency training in dermatology at Penn State's Milton S. Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pennsylvania.

Geisinger Health System recently honored Dr. Rosamilia at its annual Top Patient Experience Clinicians

Awards Dinner for ranking in the top 10 percent in patient experience nationally.

Dr. Rosamilia currently serves on the editorial and review boards of several medical journals. She is certified by the American Board of Dermatology. In addition to practicing, she teaches dermatology residents and primary care practitioners and delivers lectures on dermatology locally, nationally, and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate Dr. Rosamilia on this outstanding achievement.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO GUS SCHUMACHER

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a man named Gus Schumacher, a man whose enduring legacy and indefatigable work ethic in the field of agriculture improved the lives of untold millions of people in our country and those America touches around the world—yes, farmers from all walks of life, including the smallest producers, not just the biggest, including people who are hungry.

I remember one time Gus spoke with me about going through nursing homes in western Iowa and how America had to do a better job of reaching places that were forgotten, places that you would not expect to find hungry people.

Gus' work touched people across a broad variety of pursuits. He wasn't limited by the false urban-rural divide that our country lives with, and he touched citizens across the income spectrum.

It was with deep sadness that we learned of the news that Gus, a former Under Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for both Democratic and Republican Presidents, Bill

□ 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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Clinton and George Bush, and a founding board chair of an organization called Wholesome Wave, passed away unexpectedly last month.

A few days before his death, he had come to our office offering his help to the Congress on the new farm bill. He cared so much about people. He cared so much about nutrition. He understood the foundational power of agriculture in our Nation, so blessed with the resources to feed ourselves and the world if we put our shoulder to the wheel.

Simply, Gus loved and lived agriculture. He had experience from the time he was a child that directed him toward farming and all of its array. The farmers market was in his DNA.

He was born in Massachusetts on a farm in Lexington and bridged the divide between city and rural dwellers. This approach was the American way, the American family way. His grandfather and great-grandfather farmed, get this, in New York City, where they grew vegetables in enclosed greenhouses and sold what they grew at city markets. He knew agriculture from the inside, even inside a place like New York City, where now, with modern technology, we are growing lettuce on walls as high as the ceiling of this Chamber in which I speak.

When Gus was young, he was loading up his brother's truck, and a box of pears fell off the truck and scattered all over the ground. Two young boys and their mother ran up, and they began picking up the pears. The mother explained that she was on food stamps and unable to afford fresh produce for her kids. Gus' heart broke, and his life's work began and he never stopped.

Gus worked tirelessly to support local farming and local agriculture, and I cannot underline local, local, local enough. He became an American force in the farm-to-table movement, encouraging restaurants and stores to buy produce locally. He saw communities shattered across our country when that local production food chain was broken, and he used his last ounce of strength to reconnect it.

Most recently, in preparation for the upcoming farm bill, he selflessly helped create provisions in H.R. 3699, the new Urban Agriculture Production Act, a bill that really focuses on producing, in some of the most forgotten places, with innovative farming practices, including in urban food deserts. He never stopped trying.

I loved him because he loved farmers markets, and I love farmers markets. Nothing creates community more than growing and feeding the local population. As we move to such large institutions that seem almost unapproachable by the average American, Gus was always bringing power back to people.

He expanded programs to include veterans, including the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as we attempt to pass a new farm bill, making

sure that our veterans are included in that extraordinarily popular coupon program.

Gus was humble, kind, visionary, passionate, compassionate, generous, and dedicated, and a man for all seasons.

In closing, let me say Gus Schumacher will always be remembered as a gentle giant who packed a powerful punch. His impact will not be forgotten, and his legacy will live on and carry his dreams forward. Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, I am going to devote every ounce of energy I have in the new farm bill to making his dreams come true.

STEVE TAZZA AND THE VETERAN OPPORTUNITY PARTNERS ARE DEVOTED TO SUPPORTING VETERANS

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Steve Tazza and the Veteran Opportunity Partners for their devotion to supporting the veterans of my district. By encouraging the growth of veteran-owned businesses, Veteran Opportunity Partners provides an example for us all about the importance of serving our Nation's heroes.

Veteran Opportunity Partners and Steve Tazza began providing services to the residents of my district and career opportunities to our veterans in the spring of 2017. They plan to expand the geographic reach of their service to our vets, while creating hundreds of careers for our veterans, in the years to come.

The work that Mr. Tazza and those at Veteran Opportunity Partners do for our veterans is not only worthy of our recognition, Mr. Speaker, but it is also worthy of our support. We are so proud of all they do to serve our Nation's heroes.

FIRST ROBOTICS IS COMMITTED TO INSPIRING YOUNG LEADERS

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize FIRST Robotics and their student mentoring program for its commitment to inspiring young leaders in our Nation and in my district. FIRST Robotics, through their competitions and mentor-based programs, engages young people to help foster an understanding and appreciation for science and technology.

FIRST Robotics competitions take place across the world. From as young as 6 to as old as 18, students can get involved in technology and robotics challenges like the FIRST Robotics Competition.

The FIRST Robotics Competition asks high school students to design, build, and test robots over the course of 6 weeks. Students fundraise the entirety of the money they need for these robots, which can cost thousands of dollars to build, by partnering with local businesses or applying for grants.

By taking part in these competitions and working with older mentors, students learn invaluable skills, like technological research, to help them develop into well-rounded individuals.

I am proud to have 26 FIRST teams in my district. The young people involved in these leagues and competitions, including those who mentor them, show the leadership and inquisitive spirit necessary for our future technological innovators.

THE ART OF THE TAX DEAL

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

Ms. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I proudly present the art of the deal:

In the tax deal before us, we provide permanent tax cuts for individuals who are multimillionaires and billionaires. With this deal, all middle class families will eventually face a tax increase since tax relief for them expires.

All taxes, of course, go up on folks earning as little as \$10,000 a year almost immediately. After all, Mr. Speaker, somebody's got to pay for the wealthy's permanent tax cuts.

Now, how do we get buy-in from the middle class, you ask. Well, here is the beauty of the deal, Mr. Speaker. We will trickle down a few crumbs from the master's table to get some of them through one or two Christmas shopping seasons; and let's tell them that they can do their taxes on a postcard and that they will just love that they won't have to go through all the tedious math work of receiving thousands of dollars in personal exemptions and State income and local tax relief.

□ 1015

They won't have to do all of that subtracting of medical expenses and student loan interest from their tax obligations.

We will promise them jobs. Hey, yeah, let's do that through dynamic scoring, trickle-down and voodoo economic growth like we did during the Reagan and Bush years, back when we gave trillions of dollars in tax cuts to the wealthy and created the deficits that are now dragging on our economy.

Mr. Speaker, people are so desperate that they will believe us. Of course, we will have to cut \$25 billion out of Social Security immediately to meet budget rules, or maybe we can just cut some veteran benefits from mandatory spending. We are targeting \$1.5 trillion in cuts to Medicaid and Medicare, but don't worry, Mr. Speaker, we will just defame recipients of these benefits as unworthy welfare cheats and the general public will go for our deal.

Mr. Speaker, let's adopt a better deal. Let's pursue a commonsensical means of growing the economy, like spending these trillions of dollars on infrastructure instead of a giveaway to the wealthy, by providing postsecondary opportunity and skill development to our next generation of