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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. MARSHALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 8, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER W. MARSHALL 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 8, 2018, 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.

NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, this week is National Charter Schools Week. It is my pleasure to celebrate alongside the students who have benefited from these innovative institutions. Charter schools serve over 3 million students nationwide, providing students in rural, urban, and suburban settings with unique educational opportunities.

The reforms in the Every Student Succeeds Act enable charter schools to serve more students and allow States to support new, high-quality charter schools to address the growing demand for these schools. And the demand is high. Currently, 5 million students are awaiting their chance to attend. Charter schools offer American families the right to choose what environment is best for their child. It is clear that parents and students want this choice available to them, and they deserve to have it.

HONORING SEAN VESTAL

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Sean Vestal of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This year the North Carolina High School Athletic Association awarded Mr. Vestal the Homer Thompson Memorial Eight Who Make a Difference Award. This honor is awarded each year to one coach from each region of the State for excellence in sportsmanship, dedication, and being a student role model.

Known for his supportive relationships with athletes and using the game to teach life lessons that go beyond the court, Mr. Vestal finished his career as North Forsyth's head basketball coach after 12 seasons to spend more time with his family. However, he continues his dedication to students as the school's athletic director.

Congratulations to Mr. Vestal in receiving the Eight Who Make a Difference Award. We are fortunate to have him as an example of sportsmanship and an encouraging role model in North Carolina's Fifth District. I wish him success in his future endeavors.

HONORING RODNEY LEWIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. O'HALLERAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. O'HALLERAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Rodney Lewis, a respected member of the Gila River Indian Community, a loving father, and a committed Arizonan who made a career fighting for water rights for Indian Tribes across the country.

When he was a boy, Rod, as his friends called him, remembered watching his family survive droughts that destroyed crops, and he would listen to stories about the damming of the Gila River, which gave life to those who lived in the region.

Mr. Lewis served his country in the United States Army infantry, becoming an Army Ranger and rising to the rank of first lieutenant. After being honorably discharged, Rod went to law school at the University of California, Los Angeles, where his next chapter of service began. According to his son, Governor Stephen Lewis, Rod came home to serve his people, to bring back that education, that legal expertise that the community and many Tribes did not have, which was something extraordinary and very significant to the community—and, later on, to the entire southwestern United States.

For over 30 years, Rod not only served as general counsel to his community, but he was also sought after across the country as a preeminent legal scholar on Tribal rights, water and energy law, and Tribal gaming. He was the first Native American attorney to argue and win a case before the United States Supreme Court. He was also the first Native American attorney to be admitted to the State bar and to practice law in Arizona.

One of Rod's longest lasting accomplishments is the Arizona Water Settlements Act, which was signed into law by President George W. Bush. He led the negotiations with the Federal Government, Arizona, and more than 30 non-Indian parties for settlement of the community's water rights and claims. The legislation set aside billions of gallons of water for Arizona Tribes and helped avoid lengthy lawsuits. It also helped settle the long-

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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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lasting needs of water for the entire southern region of Arizona. I had the honor of working with Rod on important water issues and saw firsthand what his knowledge and passion did for his community and the State of Arizona.

He and his wife, Willardene, met in the first grade and raised a close-knit and passionate family. According to Governor Lewis, his mother and father were the definition of soulmates.

My heart goes out to Willardene, Governor Lewis, John, Katherine, and the whole community as they mourn their loss and celebrate the legacy of a great man.

HONORING THE CENTRE COUNTY 4-H ROBOTICS CLUB

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 the Centre County 4-H Robotics Club for winning the FIRST Robotics Competition and being the first Pennsylvania team to capture the title.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is an international high school robotics competition. Each year, teams of high school students, coaches, and mentors work during a 6-week period to build game-playing robots that weigh up to 120 pounds. The Centre County 4-H Robotics Club was 1 of 405 teams from 22 States and 7 countries to compete in the late-April event which was hosted at Ford Field in Detroit, Michigan.

Each team earned a spot in the contest based on competition performance throughout the year. This year, the Centre County 4-H Robotics Club earned its spot by winning its first regional competition at the Greater Pittsburgh Regional in March. The championship entailed 10 rounds of qualification matches in six divisions. The top eight teams in each division drafted an alliance of four robots to compete in a single-elimination playoff to determine the division champion, at which time the Centre County team joined forces with Stryke Force from Kalamazoo, Michigan; Team Rush from Clarkston, Michigan; and Lake Effect Robotics from Kingston, Ontario.

Mr. Speaker, this is an amazing accomplishment on many fronts. The Centre County 4-H Robotics Club has created state-of-the-art technology, they have worked together with interstate and international peers to achieve success, and they have built long-lasting career skills.

I am incredibly proud of this club, and I want to highlight each team member: Tom Sowers, Mary Davis, Tate Geiger, Hannah Strouse, Petr Esakov, James Hanagan, Nathan Tack, Thad Valentine, Griffen Josephs, Roger Nagel, Emily Christensen, Zach Jester, Lachlan Sneff, Isaiah Adu, Ben Servey, A.J. Marsala, Braydon Button, Alex Mullen, Eli Johnson, and Lee Conklin.

The club had numerous mentors and community supporters who helped them to achieve this first-place international finish. This is especially important today, on National Teacher Appreciation Day. This week we celebrate America's hardworking, dedicated, and passionate teachers, who inspire scores of students. To all of our teachers and mentors, especially those who helped the Centre County 4-H Robotics Club bring home gold at the FIRST Robotics Competition, we salute you.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly congratulate the Centre County 4-H Robotics Club on this outstanding achievement in Centre County, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in the United States of America, and, quite frankly, in the world. Congratulations.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AND ANTI-TRAFFICKING

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

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I introduce the bipartisan Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2018.

I want to first recognize my good friend and Republican colead on this important legislation, Congressman DON YOUNG from Alaska, dean of the House and a longtime conservation leader. I want to thank him for his support as the original cosponsor.

I also want to thank the leading wildlife and marine conservation, whistleblower, and animal welfare groups that have endorsed the bill to date. The Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act will strengthen enforcement against poachers, traffickers, and the global trade in illegal wildlife and seafood products.

Wildlife trafficking; poaching; and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing rank among the top global crimes, generating billions in illicit profits each year for transnational criminal organizations and extremist groups. In tackling the global wildlife trafficking trade as our bill does, Congress can help to conserve iconic wildlife and cut off illicit financing for groups responsible for human rights abuses, political corruption, and even terrorism worldwide.

Our bipartisan bill includes enforcement provisions passed by the House in November of 2015, by voice vote, which will empower Federal prosecutors and law enforcement to combat the global wildlife trafficking trade. Importantly, the bill also recognizes the critical role that whistleblowers can play in providing the actionable intelligence needed to prosecute wildlife poachers and take down trafficking rings.

By incentivizing whistleblowers on wildlife trafficking and related crimes to come forward, Congress can increase enforcement and leverage existing Federal agency resources and our legal system at no cost to the taxpayers. Our

bill also includes several provisions that will support wildlife conservation worldwide by authorizing a comprehensive international wildlife conservation program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; also, stationing law enforcement and agency personnel in wildlife trafficking-focused countries identified by the State Department; and providing dedicated funding for wildlife, marine mammal, sea turtle, and shark conservation at no expense to the taxpayers.

I am especially pleased that our bill provides for marine wildlife species which often go overlooked but are increasingly targeted by poachers, traffickers, and illegal fishing. The bill also expands the Marine Turtle Conservation Fund to make the U.S. territories eligible for funding and to provide for the conservation of endangered freshwater turtles and tortoises. Many of the world's freshwater turtle and tortoise species could become extinct in the next few decades, and all sea turtles found in our Nation's territorial waters are listed under the Endangered Species Act.

U.S. territories are home to numerous marine turtle species, including the endangered hawksbill and the green sea turtles native to Guam and the western Pacific Ocean. Lastly, the bill builds upon the success of two laws which I sponsored: the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 and the Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing Enforcement Act of 2015.

Together with Congressman YOUNG, we have put together a comprehensive bill that advances wildlife conservation and continues American leadership in tackling wildlife trafficking and the global trade in illegal wildlife and seafood products. And we do all this with existing Federal resources, at no cost to the taxpayers.

I urge all Members of the House to join me and Congressman YOUNG in cosponsoring the Wildlife Conservation and Anti-Trafficking Act of 2018.

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TRIBUTE TO DR. JIMMY E. JACKSON

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 53-year pastoral career of Dr. Jimmy E. Jackson, who is set to retire in early June.

I first met Dr. Jackson 38 years ago in 1980. Over those 38 years, I have grown to very much appreciate and admire all that Dr. Jackson has done to improve the physical and spiritual lives of Tennessee Valley residents.

Dr. Jackson has dedicated the last 40 years of his pastoral service to the congregation of Whitesburg Baptist Church in Huntsville, Alabama. My colleagues may recall when Dr. Jackson served as a guest chaplain for the House of Representatives in April of 2015.