



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 164

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MAY 17, 2018

No. 81

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC

May 17, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT DESJARLAIS 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.

RECOGNIZING DYLAN RHEKER AS MACOMB COUNTY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize recently named Macomb County Volunteer of the Year, eighth-grader Dylan Rheker.

Dylan, age 14, volunteers at the Village of East Harbor senior living facility, at Francis A. Higgins Elementary School, at the Anna Mae Burdi Early Childhood Center, as well as Selfridge

Air National Guard Base and the Roseville Community Schools.

However, what is also impressive, in addition to Dylan's giving spirit, is his perseverance. You see, Dylan was born with neurofibromatosis, a condition which causes tumors to form in his brain, spinal cord, and nerves. Dylan was also diagnosed with cancer and has been undergoing chemotherapy for the past 4 years.

None of this deters the straight-A student as he helps people across the 10th Congressional District. In fact, Dylan recently set a school volunteer hour record, with 236 hours of volunteer service last year. When asked about his volunteerism, Dylan responds that he is "happy to help" and "always here if someone needs help."

Dylan is an outstanding young man, and I am extremely proud of all the work he does in our district to make the community a better place to live and work. I wish him the best of luck in the future, and I hope all of you will as well.

RECOGNIZING CARLA VILLALVAZO AS WINNER OF 2018 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Carla Villalvazo, a high school student from Eisenhower High School in Shelby Township, Michigan. Carla is the winner of the 2018 Congressional Art Competition for my district. Her artwork titled "Forget Me Not" is a watercolor painting which will hang in the Cannon tunnel of the Capitol for the next year.

Importantly, it is not only wonderful artwork, it talks about the struggle the family has with a family member with Alzheimer's. It is great artwork, but it also touches my heart and, I think, many others.

I also recognize second-place finisher Stefanie Frontera, also from Eisenhower High School, and third-place finisher Christina Berels from Cardinal Mooney High School. These students all submitted wonderful pieces of art.

The second- and third-place winners will hang in my office.

I thank them all for their submission.

UNDERMINING OF OUR DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. SUOZZI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, Russia has been working to undermine our democracy, as well as democracies throughout Europe, including Central and Eastern Europe.

Unfortunately, too many Americans and elected officials have been distracted from Russia's secret operations because of the pitched, partisan battle regarding Putin's involvement in the 2016 Presidential race.

The bottom line is this: Democrats and Republicans can't lose focus on Russia's worldwide treachery due to our hyperpartisanship here at home.

Instead, Democrats and Republicans in Congress must work together to expose Russia's worldwide plan to subvert democracy. We must face the reality that Russia is a strategic competitor of the United States that is using nontraditional, nonmilitary weapons in a hybrid warfare to undermine democracies in countries that are ill-equipped to combat their malign efforts.

Instead of focusing on Russia's activities during the 2016 election, I have introduced a bipartisan bill, the Russia Anti-Corruption Act, with 13 Republicans and 10 Democratic cosponsors, to expose and thwart Putin and his cronies' illicit activities in Eastern Europe and Europe as a whole.

Whether bribing politicians, cyber attacks, manipulating social media networks, buying media outlets to promote propaganda, or purchasing power plants to control energy supplies to gain leverage over unstable governments, we must define, document, and

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H4141