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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. LAMBORN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG LAMBORN 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 THANET NATISRI

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Thanet Natisri of Marion, Illinois, for his role in rescuing 12 young soccer players and their coach from a flooded cave in Thailand earlier this month.

Thanet, a groundwater expert educated at SIU Carbondale, began doing charity work in his native country of Thailand 3 years ago. He was in Thailand assisting rural residents in fixing

their water problems when he got the call from the Thai military. Within 3 hours, he was on a plane to go help divert rising water levels in the cave.

The rescue operation used his expertise to divert water and allow divers to reach the soccer team. After 18 grueling days, which captivated the world, the boys and their soccer coach were safely rescued.

Thanet, you played a vitally important role in saving 13 lives. Southern Illinois is proud.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JAMES HOLDER

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Officer James Holder of Pinckneyville Police Department for receiving the Illinois State Bar Association's Law Enforcement Award. The Law Enforcement Award recognizes officer conduct that promotes justice and brings honor and respect to the entire criminal justice system.

Officer Holder was acknowledged for his involvement in a search and rescue operation during a major fire in an apartment building next to the Perry County Jail. He forcibly entered the building, notifying residents to immediately evacuate and clearing housing units to ensure no one was present.

He proceeded to identify the source of the fire and work with other first responders as traffic and crowd control.

Thank you, Officer Holder, for your brave service, and thank you to all of our first responders who are out there risking their lives every day to keep our communities safe.

TIME TO CORRECT OUR FISCAL COURSE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, every day there is a head-spinning moment with someone who is willing to push the Presidential powers to the point of abuse.

Trump is undermining freedom of the press with unprecedented attacks.

He cast doubt on the integrity and competence of United States intelligence services.

He has an administration that is manipulating the data of a dishonest agency evaluation of the impact of monuments status that protects hundreds of thousands of acres and endangered species like the magnificent sage-grouse.

Today's outrage is a plan to use the Commodity Credit Corporation to funnel another \$12 billion for a bailout of American farmers. You know, most farmers and ranchers don't want a government bailout. They would like to be able to farm. They would like to be able to market. They would like to be able to sell their products without the threat of Trump's trade war.

Soon after Obama took office, inheriting the worst economy since the Great Depression, we have seen steady private sector employment growth for 9 consecutive years. Now, after inheriting a strong and growing economy, Trump and his enablers in the Republican Party are threatening this progress with a trade war that increases prices for American consumers, for American businesses, and is raising their costs.

It is hard to keep track of everything. Trump is involved with an all-out war on the Affordable Care Act. After utterly failing in his promise—remember, he was going to provide better healthcare for more people at lower cost. Who knew healthcare was complicated. Instead, his administration is raising insurance costs for millions in the individual market while destabilizing insurance for the rest of us.

There were promises of tax reform, making it simpler and fairer. Instead, we have hopelessly complicated the Tax Code. We have given massive tax cuts for many people who didn't need them. We are going to be watching for

□ 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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taxes being raised on homeowners across the country over the next 10 years.

And, as a result of these actions for the budget and the taxes, we have doubled the budget deficit this year, with the prospect of deficits every year of a trillion dollars or more as far as the eye can see.

After Republicans have cut over \$2 trillion in taxes since 2001 for just the top 1 percent, what is the solution our Republican friends are offering to deal with the consequences? Look at the budget they just passed. Mr. Speaker, \$2 trillion of cuts in programs for everybody else: Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act.

At some point, the public is going to catch on to what is happening to them. In fact, maybe they already are. Maybe that is the reason that the Republican tax cuts are less popular than Bill Clinton's tax increase.

It is time that we take a step back, while we still can, and get back on the appropriate fiscal course. It does not mean trade wars and providing money for people who don't need it.

Let's allow the economy to function without gimmicks and bailouts.

CTE BILL A WIN FOR ALL AMERICANS

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 speak about the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which has seen unanimous support in both Chambers of Congress, something I hope continues today. I proudly championed this bill because I truly believe that passing it will be a win for students, for workers, and for every person in America.

Mr. Speaker, America is ready for a win.

In June 2017, the House unanimously passed this bill to strengthen career and technical education. On Monday, the Senate also approved it unanimously, and we are now just steps away from getting this critical legislation to the President's desk to be signed into law.

This bill has been supported by House Education and the Workforce Committee Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT. I thank them both. I want to thank the Democratic lead, Representative RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY, and my CTE Caucus co-chairman, Representative JIM LANDEVIN.

House and Senate leaders have brought this legislation to their respective floors because they know it is an important bill.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation aims to restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity, because all Americans deserve a good-paying, family-sustaining job.

Too often, we see students pushed down the college-for-all pathway that just doesn't work for some people.

But CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certifications and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school in a skills-based education program or in college.

By modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs, we will be able to connect more educators with industry stakeholders and close the skills gap in this country.

Mr. Speaker, 6.7 million jobs, good jobs, are currently available because people need to be qualified to get them.

In fact, today, right here in Washington, CTE will be highlighted. The House Education and the Workforce Committee has invited 24 innovators from across the country for the bipartisan Innovation Forum and Showcase. Dedicated professionals will share with Congress and the public how they are addressing the Nation's education and workforce development changes.

I am proud to count among these professionals Mr. Joe Luther from my district. Mr. Luther is the horticulture and landscaping instructor at the Central Pennsylvania Institute of Science and Technology, located in Pleasant Gap, Centre County, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Luther uses hands-on instruction to inspire students to reach great heights and achieve success in life. He brings real-life scenarios into his classroom at every opportunity to show students what their future can be like in the workforce.

I know every Member of this House wants to give every American, regardless of where they come from, the best opportunity to succeed. That is why I urge my colleagues to support the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act when it comes back to the floor today with the Senate amendment.

This bill and the amendment will modernize the Federal role in our Nation's CTE program, which is long overdue; but, most importantly, it will restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity. It will inspire a new generation of builders and thinkers and makers and creators, and it will give every American a shot at the American Dream, which is opportunity and success in life.

RECOGNIZING UPCOMING CENTENARIANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize three of my constituents who are all celebrating birthday 100 very, very soon. Mrs. Cora Jones "Boot" McLeod, Mrs. Christine Johnson Umstead, and Mrs. Annie Belle Gilmore Rogers are all members of historic Mount Vernon

Baptist Church located in Durham, North Carolina, pastored by my friend Dr. Jerome J. Washington.

These centenarians, Mr. Speaker, will soon celebrate their birthdays, surrounded by family and friends. These women have committed much of their lives to the development of their family and community. They are devout Christians of the missionary baptist faith who love their church.

Mrs. Cora Jones Boot McLeod was born on August 8, 1918, in Raleigh, North Carolina, and attended Rosenswald Schools. She started her own business in Durham as a professional beautician. Mrs. McLeod has spent all of her life encouraging her family and community to be independent and faithful in their pursuits. Her leadership is reflected in the business community and at her beloved Mount Vernon Baptist Church, where she served as church usher.

Mrs. Christine Johnson Umstead was born on August 16, 1918, in Roxboro, North Carolina, located in Person County, just north of Durham. She came to Durham as a food service professional. In retirement, she has encouraged others to become active senior citizens by setting an example and providing motivation to all. Mrs. Umstead joined Mount Vernon in 1948 and has remained an active church member.

Over the years, she has provided faithful leadership and fellowship as a Christian missionary, a member of the senior citizens organization, and the J.E. Best Bible Class.

Finally, yet importantly, is Mrs. Annie Belle Gilmore Rogers. Mrs. Rogers was born on October 20, 1918, in Durham, and her ancestors were founding members of Mount Vernon Baptist Church. Over the past 100 years, she has exemplified the value of faith, education, and resourcefulness.

She attended what was then Hillside Park School, which we now know as Hillside High School, in Durham. She went on to become a teacher's assistant at C.C. Spaulding Elementary School, where she helped educate young minds who would go on to become future leaders.

Mrs. Rogers recognized the value of managing her resources and teaching her family to do the same. She was among the first members and leaders of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church Credit Union, at a time when African Americans had few opportunities for investing their limited resources or borrowing money to develop individual wealth. The credit union stands today as the last functioning church credit union in the State, with members of Mrs. Rogers' family serving on its board.

□ 1015

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride this morning that I speak these words today from the floor of the House of Representatives. These three strong and powerful African American women