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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. CAREY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 1, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE CAREY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION MONTH

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, on the first day of February, to recognize Career and Technical Education Month.

During this month, we highlight the impact of CTE programs, programs that can be referred to as learn-to-earn. These programs are for learners at all levels. We recognize the role of

CTE in supporting industry seeking to fill positions in high-demand, high-skill, and high-wage jobs and career fields.

My appreciation for CTE came at a very early age. My father, coming out of the Navy, went through a CTE program, which led him to a job as a tool and die maker. Eventually, he decided to start his own business, which became quite successful.

As co-chair of the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus and a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, I have always supported and will continue to support CTE programs that provide learners of all ages with career-ready skills.

From agriculture to the arts, from marketing to manufacturing, CTE programs work to develop America's most valuable resource: its people.

A one-size-fits-all approach to education is not an effective way to prepare students for the workforce. We are doing students a great disservice when we only promote what is considered a traditional college experience.

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

Mr. Speaker, CTE Month recognizes the benefits of a skills-based education and the valuable contributions CTE students make to the American workforce.

Congress recognized the importance of CTE when we passed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, which helps to close the skills gap by modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs and connecting educators with industry stakeholders. This bill was later signed into law by President Trump in 2018.

While this is a major milestone, there is still much more work to be done. That is why I will continue to put forward commonsense pieces of legislation that update and promote workforce development throughout our Nation.

These include: The Counseling for Career Choice Act, which ensures that high school students are made fully aware of their career and educational options prior to graduation, including non-degree certificate programs, internships, apprenticeships, and 2-year and 4-year degree programs.

There is also the Skills Investment Act, which enhances tax advantaged savings accounts for educational expenses so American workers can use the accounts to pay for skills-based learning, career training, and workforce development.

Lastly, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act, creates a \$10 million pilot program within the Department of Education to award competitive grants to education-employer partnerships for the development, implementation, and/or expansion of postsecondary CTE programs that integrate cybersecurity education into curricula preparing students for careers in critical infrastructure sectors.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I encourage my fellow colleagues to join my co-chair, Ms. BONAMICI of Oregon, and me on the bipartisan House Career and Technical Education Caucus as we work to restore the rungs on the ladder of opportunity for all.

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the first day of Black History Month and to honor the

☐ 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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