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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 12, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member except the majority leader, the minority leader or the minority whip limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

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

LIVABLE COMMUNITIES ON CAPITOL HILL

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I came to Congress to promote more livable communities, the Federal Government being a better partner to make our families safe, healthy and economically secure. An important part of making those communities livable is making sure that people have the choices about where they want to live, work, and how they travel.

A recent study highlighted Washington, D.C. as the third most con-

gested city in America for traffic congestion. Rush hour now is up to 6 hours or more out of the day.

To bring it down closer to home in our little community on Capitol Hill, we have problems with congestion, pollution and parking shortages. There are over 6,000 parking spaces reserved for House employees alone, which cost the taxpayer more than \$1,500 a year per employee. With the temporary closing of the Cannon Building parking garage, now more than ever parking is at a premium on Capitol Hill.

Three years ago, with the help of the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and Speaker Gingrich, we were able to change the policy so that we did not just give unlimited free parking to House employees and no alternative, but finally help give them a choice by providing a modest \$21 Metro transit benefit for those offices that wish to provide it for their employees.

Still, the House lags far behind employers in the private sector and other Federal agencies in providing and promoting for transit benefits. As a result of work that we were able to do with the last administration, all Federal employees except our own here in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area get at least \$65 a month to promote transit. Soon, the amount of the transit benefit allowed by law will be increased to \$100 a month. But the House should not always be playing catch-up. Even our Senate colleagues across the way provide \$44 a month for their employees.

Recently, we have submitted over three dozen of our colleagues' signatures to the Committee on House Administration asking them to allow those offices that want to provide this transit benefit the full \$65 allowed under law.

What better way for the House to be a part of the solution of saving energy,

protecting the air, fighting against congestion than by expanding the transit benefit the way that we are asking the rest of America to do it.

It is also appropriate, I think, on this very muggy day to consider the role of our employees that actually walk or bike or run to work. There are only two facilities on all of Capitol Hill for over 6,000 employees to be able to shower at work when we close the facilities in the O'Neill Building.

Now, several years ago, we were able to work with the Subcommittee on Legislative Branch and the House Superintendent to be able to add some showers and lockers to the Rayburn Building. Now it is time for the committee to consider again adding more facilities, at least to avoid reducing the amount for our employees that are trying to do the right thing.

Not only does it help protect the environment, but we know that daily physical activity for adults is now at an all-time low. Forty percent of the adult population does not engage in leisure time physical activity. We know that moderate amounts of exercise can significantly promote the health and wellness as well as enhancing the productivity of our employees.

I would strongly suggest that my colleagues join me in urging the Committee on House Administration for us to at least not be left behind in promoting transit use of our employees and be able to provide adequate shower and locker facilities for our employees that are trying to do the right thing and promote physical activity and protect the environment.

It is important that we work on developing livable communities, not just in our districts, but for the men and women who work here on Capitol Hill. The environment and our employees deserve our best efforts.

□ 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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RESTORING THE LAFAYETTE- ESCADRILLE MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, a little over a month ago I brought to the attention of my colleagues the deteriorating state of the Lafayette-Escadrille Memorial, which honors all United States aviators who flew for France in World War I.

On June 17, a wreath laying ceremony will take place at the memorial to commemorate the 85th anniversary of its dedication. Tomorrow I will be introducing a resolution in honor of the 68 Americans who were memorialized or buried on the site and to honor all our fallen aviators of World War I. In addition, the resolution will express support for the funding needed to restore this hallowed site.

In a poster right here, this storyboard depicts the history of the Lafayette-Escadrille and their "Heritage of Valor and Sacrifice." Seven Americans formed the original American squadron. When the Escadrille, which means squadron, transferred to United States command in 1918, 265 American volunteers had served in the French Air Service with 180 of those having flown combat missions. In all, the Escadrille flew 3,000 combat sorties, amassing nearly 200 victories. In fact, the Escadrille became the birth of the United States Air Force.

A joint French-American committee was organized at the end of World War I to locate a final resting place for these American aviators. With the land donated by the French Government, the Lafayette-Escadrille Memorial was dedicated on July 4, 1928. The picture in the middle is the front of the memorial. It encompasses an arch of triumph with a series of columns placed on either side. Indeed, it is a sight to behold.

The memorial also contains a sanctuary and a burial crypt. Sunlight fills the tomb by way of 13 stained glass windows. Each of these works of art depicts the Escadrille flying its many missions over the battlefields of Europe. One of the most striking stained glass works depicts the U.S. aviators, escorted by an eagle, on a symbolic flight across the Atlantic to come to the aid of France.

Sadly, the memorial is in desperate need of repair. The structure sits in a meadow with a high water table. Heavy rains flood the tomb, exacerbated by the poor functioning drains and water leaking through the terrace behind the memorial. Structural repairs are needed for the crypt and the overall foundation, and double glass is needed to protect the remarkable, remarkable stained glass windows.

If we look again at the center, we will see that the front of the memorial is cracked and stained with pollution.

Let me show my colleagues the next poster. This graphic here shows the de-

terioration inside the crypt. The crumbling masonry and stucco and overall structural damage is evident.

Here we can see additional damage on the ceiling. Furthermore, the stained glass windows, like the one we see here, are not protected. These beautiful works of art could be lost forever if the structural deterioration is allowed to continue.

In 1930, U.S. Attorney Nelson Cromwell founded the Lafayette-Escadrille Memorial Foundation. He endowed the foundation with a \$1.5 million trust fund for maintenance, which has all been exhausted. Today, the foundation has a mirror organization in France and a pledge of monetary support to restore this memorial.

Although studies to estimate the cost of restoring the memorial are ongoing, it is obvious that the resources required will exceed the meager means of this foundation. The French Government has already indicated its willingness to assist, and it is time for the United States Government to do the same.

Combining the efforts of private industry and the United States Congress, it is my hope to join the French in restoring the memorial to its original beauty. It is the right thing to do to honor our fallen aviators of World War I and to demonstrate our respect for the sacrifices of all Americans in service to our Nation and our allies.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join with me in supporting funding for the restoration of this great memorial.

MORE COMPARABLE EDUCATION SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I take the floor today to, on one hand, compliment the other body which for over 2 days now has debated the legislation that I offered here in the House to create a more comparable education system within our various States.

I want to thank in particular the Senator from the great State of Connecticut, Senator DODD, and Senator BIDEN from Delaware, Senator REED from Rhode Island. I would like to also thank Senator BOXER and a host of other members, Senator CORZINE, and then the colleague who I served on the Web-based Education Commission with, Senator ENZI, who is a Republican Member of the Senate from the State of Wyoming.

I would expect that when the matter is brought for a vote after some more debate this week, there will be a lot of the other Members from the other body that I would want to thank.

But I also have some concern that this legislation, unfortunately, did not get a full hearing here in this House.

The Committee on Rules decided that, when we debated the education bill, that for some reason we were in a rush and that we could not offer amendments to title I as part of the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

So even though the House Committee on Education and the Workforce under the leadership of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), my great friend, the majority chairman, gave me the opportunity to testify before the committee and to raise this concern, it was not afforded the opportunity rightfully to be debated and voted on here on the floor of the House.

But let me move to the substance of this matter because I think that we perpetrate a fraud on the Nation to talk about education reform and some discussion about the inequities that exist within our States between poor, rural and urban school districts and their wealthier suburban counterparts, for in almost every State in the Union, there has been and continues to be litigation brought by small, rural and impoverished school districts and large urban districts seeking from their State a fuller share of educational funding, an adequate share.

When we talk about education reform, we talk about testing every child every year in every school as if every child every year and in every school is afforded the same education opportunity. Well, we know that is not the case.

□ 1245

We know that, for instance, in poorer school districts most of the children are being taught by teachers who are not certified in the subject that they are teaching; that, in fact, in math, in science, in the critical disciplines, that the teachers who are teaching the majority of the students in urban and rural school districts did not major nor minor in the subjects that they are teaching. So we have physical education teachers teaching science, and then we want to come along and test kids and compare them to others.

Now, I see my colleague, the newest of Members from the great State of California, where there has been plenty of litigation on this issue. Look at the example of Beverly Hills High, in which young people have the opportunity to have 23 advanced placement courses offered to them, but at Compton High not one advanced placement course is available to them. How can we create a situation where we are going to look at young people and say they are not performing as well as their counterparts when they are not given the same opportunity?

In Maryland, right next door, we have wide disparities on what is being spent in one district versus another. We have in the city of Baltimore 123 young people who had the opportunity to take AP courses; but in Montgomery County, the wealthiest suburb, 5,000 students had the opportunity to take AP courses.