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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. UPTON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 26, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable FRED UPTON 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 5, 2016, 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 each party limited to 1 hour 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 1:50 p.m.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL AND GRANT HIGH SCHOOL CONSTITUTIONAL COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, today is primary day in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast States, the so-called Acela Primary, the five States all served by Amtrak.

Fortunately, we are going to get a break, briefly, from a primary season that is truly cringe-worthy.

But for hundreds of people who were privileged to watch high school students from across America participate in the We the People constitutional competition, there is hope.

These teenage scholars, most not old enough to vote or to drive, compete in a contest demonstrating their knowledge of the Constitution and democratic principles as well as their ability to think on their feet.

At a time when civics education doesn't appear to be a priority for most of American education, this shows the appetite and the capacity to fill that gap.

I have more than a little hometown pride in this undertaking. The Classroom Law Project has been a priority of my family for years and continues to be so.

For the last 4 years, two public high schools in Portland, Oregon, have alternated the National Championship, with Lincoln High School finishing first in 2012 and 2014 and Grant High School in Portland winning the national trophy in 2013 and 2015.

This year Oregon was able to send both teams to the national finals, and the pattern continued, as Lincoln won its third trophy in 5 years and Grant, given an opportunity to compete, finished third, an unprecedented accomplishment for one town's high schools.

This amazing success speaks to the dedication of the young scholars and the amazing support of their families that was evident in the competition, the finals of which were held here in our Nation's Capital.

Both teams have a core of volunteer coaches who are lawyers and judges, citizens who focus on these kids and civics. They care deeply.

Having watched one of these young scholars several years ago in our household, I can testify to the intensity, the depth, and the passion for the Constitution and for our government.

Time doesn't permit me to recognize all these outstanding young people and

their mentors, the team that brought them here, but I must acknowledge the presence and advocacy of Peyton Chapman, the principal of Lincoln High School, their main coach, Steve Griffith, representative of all these amazing adults who invest so much in the young people, and Instructor George Ten Eyck, because all of these programs rely on a dedicated professional in the classroom to make it happen.

I had an opportunity on the floor of the House to meet with both of these teams late last week. Listening to their comments and questions, I celebrated their insights and hard work, their commitment, even as I wish we could have all of them on the floor of this House to elevate the discussion and deliberation, and I think they would add, frankly, to the decision-making.

But until their time will come—and it can't come soon enough—in the meantime, we celebrate five consecutive National Championships for two public high schools in Portland, Oregon.

Congratulations, Lincoln Cardinals, on your championship, and Grant High School, finishing third. Together, you have dominated this elite competition for 5 consecutive years.

Congratulations.

NATIONAL DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. JENKINS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, many people have unneeded or expired medications in their medicine cabinets. It can be hard to know how to dispose of these medications properly.

On Saturday, April 30, we have an opportunity to safely dispose of unused, expired, or unwanted prescription medications. Saturday is National

□ 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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Drug Take-Back Day, where you can take medicines to an official drop-off site to have them disposed of responsibly.

This is a no-questions-asked chance to clean out your medicine cabinets and improve the safety of your own homes.

West Virginia and this Nation are in the grips of a drug epidemic, and it will take all of us working together to solve this problem. Each one of us can do our part. While it may seem like something small, safely disposing of unused medicines and medications is one of these measures.

Drug Take-Back Day is a chance for our communities to come together and show that we are united in combating the drug epidemic. Small efforts can make a huge difference.

Please go to DEA.gov and find a local Drug Take-Back Day location near you.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SMITH of Nebraska) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Blessed are You, merciful God of us all. You have given us a new birth and made us a living hope for the world.

As a nation, we have inherited great natural resources and unending principles to guide our destiny. By Your power, You have safeguarded faith in Your people. You have made us ready to reveal in our time Your creativity and goodness active in us, but for the common good of all.

We rejoice in Your blessings upon this Congress and the people they represent. Even during times of various trials and moments of struggle, our gaze is fixed on You as the source of all goodness and foundation of peace.

May genuine faith, which is more precious than gold tested by fire, be proven in us.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KILDEE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

A DEDICATED EDUCATOR

(Mr. EMMER of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Michael-Albertville superintendent Dr. Jim Behle whose approaching retirement will mark the end of a 39-year career in education. In addition to his time as superintendent, throughout the past four decades Dr. Behle has served as a teacher, principal, guidance counselor, and associate superintendent.

Dr. Behle is one of the most beloved and revered members of our community because of his dedication to our children. Under his strong leadership, the district had many achievements, including ranking among the top 15 percent in the State for reading and math scores.

As a testament to Dr. Behle's hard work, the school board reluctantly accepted his resignation before making the statement: "This is a great loss to the district, and if at any point you change your mind, don't hesitate to let us know."

His service to our community will surely be missed, and we thank him for his years of commitment to generations of St. Michael-Albertville students and their parents.

Enjoy your retirement, Dr. Behle.

FLINT, MICHIGAN

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, so far this House of Representatives has done nothing to help the people of my hometown of Flint, Michigan. I left Flint this morning, and I left behind a city of 100,000 people who for 2 years now have not been able to drink the water coming out of their tap.

It is a disaster, it is a public health crisis, and it demands a response not just from the State government, which clearly is principally responsible for what happened. The people of my hometown are American citizens and have a right to have their national government, the Federal Government, step in and help them in the moment of their greatest need.

This is the job of the United States Congress. We have legislation that

would provide relief to the people of Flint rather than arguing over blame. That will come in time. There has been plenty of time devoted to that subject.

The legislation that I offer would have the Federal Government and the State government equally share in the cost of putting this community back together and getting the people in Flint, Michigan, something that every American ought to be able to get up in the morning and take for granted, and that is that the water they drink is clean, safe, and will not make them sick. It is time for this House to act.

RECOGNIZING THE CYBERKIDS PROGRAM AT BETHLEHEM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month I visited with students in the Cyberkids after-school program at Bethlehem Elementary School in Alexander County. This program enriches learning through research, team collaboration, and communication in the STEM areas.

We started the visit by discussing the U.S. Constitution. Then the students staged a skit that explained the process of how a bill becomes a law. In the performance, they detected a problem, came up with a solution, and collected signatures for a petition they presented to their representative, who introduced a bill, and demonstrated how Members of the House and Senate arrive at a compromise and turn legislation into law. I had the honor of signing the legislation, and the students held a mock press conference to discuss the new law.

The aptitude these students showed during my visit was impressive and inspiring, and I commend everyone involved in this innovative educational program.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 26, 2016.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 26, 2016 at 9:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 1579.

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair