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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 10, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TED POE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We thank You once again that we, Your creatures, can come before You and ask guidance for the men and women of this assembly.

Bless the people of this great Nation with wisdom, knowledge, and understanding, that they might responsibly participate in our American democracy as both political parties anticipate their conventions.

Help us all to be good citizens, respectful in our disagreements, and generous in our behavior toward one another.

Bless us this day and every day. May all that is done 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 gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. DELBENE 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

STATE EFFORTS TO CRACK DOWN ON OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently I was proud to vote for a package of bills here on the floor of the United States House intended to help crack down on the terrible epidemic of prescription opioid abuse and heroin abuse across our Nation.

Today, I want to recognize the efforts in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to assist in the goal of fighting back against all drug use. Specifically, a new law authored by State Representative Matt Baker, who represents a portion of Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District, would go after designer drugs in which different chemicals are combined to create new drugs.

This new law will speed up the process in adding these drugs to the State's list of banned drugs, enabling law enforcement to arrest and prosecute the individuals responsible. Giving members of our law enforcement commu-

nity the tools that they need to thwart illegal drug manufacturers will save lives.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to successfully fight back against a problem, you surround it. I am proud to see great lifesaving solutions coming from both the Federal and the State levels, with additional community action in the form of local roundtables and townhall meetings.

LGBT EQUALITY DAY

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

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, this is Pride Month, and we have much to celebrate.

In the last two decades, our Nation has seen the Defense of Marriage Act overturned, an end to the criminalization of same-sex conduct, and nationwide marriage equality, all through Supreme Court decisions that were handed down on June 26. But even with these incredible strides, we cannot forget that LGBT Americans continue to face inequality and discrimination simply for who they are and who they love.

That is why I have introduced legislation to designate June 26 as LGBT Equality Day, not only to celebrate how far we have come, but also to acknowledge how much work remains to be done.

I urge my colleagues and all Americans to join me in celebrating the first LGBT Equality Day on June 26.

As opponents of equality double down in their attempts to legalize discrimination, we must keep fighting until all Americans have equal rights and protections under the law.

HONORING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE AUBURN CITIZEN

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

□ 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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Mr. KATKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an important milestone in my congressional district: the bicentennial of the Auburn Citizen.

Two hundred years ago today, this daily publication began serving the people of Cayuga County by providing news and community announcements. Born in 1816 as the Auburn Gazette, this community newspaper has been known by many names over the years.

In an editorial placed this past weekend, publisher Rob Forcey noted that the Auburn Citizen began publishing just 40 years after the birth of our country.

The history of accomplished journalists at this publication includes William Dapping, a community hero who was awarded the very first special Pulitzer in 1930 for his esteemed work in covering the bloody 1929 Auburn State Prison riots.

Today, the Citizen has evolved to cover a wide area of central New York, with web-based access to local and national news, weather, and community events. What is more, the publication has expanded into western Onondaga County, with the Skaneateles Journal and West Onondaga County Journal.

Congratulations again to this community-based publication on two centuries of being the voice of the Auburn community.

REMEMBERING DAVID GILKEY

(Mr. BLUMENAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, David Gilkey, an NPR photojournalist from Portland, Oregon, was killed with his Afghani translator in a Taliban ambush in Afghanistan.

I cannot fully express my gratitude for David's tireless commitment to his profession. His evocative, beautiful work, and many contributions to NPR will be remembered for generations.

He covered conflict areas around the globe. Since 2001, he extensively covered the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He was one of the most decorated of photo journalists, including an Emmy, and the first multimedia journalist to be awarded the Corporation for Public Broadcasting's prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award for Journalism.

David played an essential role in helping us understand the global events. He was one of those who put themselves in harm's way to open the world's window for the rest of us. They are true heroes.

Our hearts go out to the Gilkey family and to his NPR family for their loss.

APPRECIATING PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA MODI

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, I was grateful to serve on the escort committee for Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India, due to my former co-chairmanship of the Caucus on India and Indian Americans, with my father having served in India during World War II.

The Prime Minister was warmly received with his positive presentation:

As a representative of the world's largest democracy, it is indeed a privilege to speak with the leaders of its oldest.

Connecting our two nations is also a unique and dynamic bridge of 3 million Indian Americans. Threats of terror are expanding, and new challenges are emerging in cyber and outer space. India is undergoing a profound social and economic change.

A commitment to rebuild a peaceful and stable and prosperous Afghanistan is our shared objective. In every sector of India's forward march, I see the U.S. as an indispensable partner.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

South Carolina especially recognizes the success of Indian Americans, with their Governor, Nikki Haley, the second Indian American Governor elected in history.

CONGRATULATING TWIN SCHOLARS

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell you a really cool story about two smart sisters, Estrella and Perla Ortiz, identical twins who earned the valedictorian and salutatorian status at their high school in Fort Worth.

Estrella and Perla are the two youngest of seven siblings in the Ortiz family. The sisters worked hard and excelled academically at North Side High School, the home of the Steers.

In their spare time, the Ortiz sisters participated in the National Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America, tutored their peers, and even helped adults obtain their GED.

Their hard work paid off in academia when they were awarded scholarships at Texas Christian University, where the sisters will receive a full ride to TCU to continue their studies in biology and premed.

The Ortiz sisters demonstrate that anything is possible with dedication and perseverance. And, oh, I want to also mention that their sister, Maria, was also valedictorian in 2014 at the same school.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Estrella and Perla on their extraordinary academic achievement.

CHEROKEE TRAIL BOYS BASEBALL TEAM

(Mr. COFFMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the boys baseball team of Cherokee Trail High School on winning the 2016 Colorado 5A State championship game on May 29, 2016.

The students and staff who were a part of the title-winning Cougars team deserve to be honored for winning the State championship for the first time since they won the 4A State championship in 2007. The Cougars beat Rocky Mountain High School 5-1 in the series, and ended the season with a winning 22-5 record.

Throughout the season, the boys of the Cherokee Trail baseball team were dedicated, worked hard, and persevered. These traits were a key factor in their endeavor to win the championship, but winning could not have been possible without the tireless leadership of their head coach, Allan Dyer, and his commendable staff.

It is with great pride that I join all of the residents of Aurora, Colorado, in congratulating the Cherokee Trail Cougars on their State championship.

EXPAND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

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

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the families who are still struggling to make ends meet.

Our economy has made great strides since the end of the recession. Like my colleagues, I have watched the unemployment rate tick down each month from 10 percent in 2009 to 5 percent today.

According to the story that these numbers tell, our economy has recovered. But for nearly 8 million Americans still looking for work, our economy is still in a state of crisis.

In my home district, more than 16 percent live in poverty, and the unemployment rate is three times the national rate, at 15 percent. I have met hundreds of these unemployed constituents at my annual job fair. They aren't looking for a handout; they are looking for a hand up, an opportunity to work, a chance to live a better life, a shot at the American Dream.

As we enter the second half of 2016, I urge my colleagues to stand with me and take action to expand economic opportunities and to ensure that all Americans who want to work have the chance to do so.

RECOGNIZING COACH LORI BLADE

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize someone who has a lot of heart, who carries herself with class and humility, and who pushes her players to be better on and off the court.