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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. LANCE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC.

May 3, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LEONARD LANCE 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 3, 2017, 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 11:50 a.m.

CONGRATULATING PAUL PACKER ON INDUCTION INTO NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I recently attended the 24th Honors Banquet for the Pennsylvania Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. Nine new Members were inducted into the Hall's membership, including Paul Packer, a 1973 Bald Eagle Area High School graduate.

Paul was the last 95-pound State champion in 1972. He had an undefeated

season that year of 23-0. He started wrestling in elementary school for Hall of Fame coach Joe Humphreys, who continued to coach Paul into junior high. At the varsity level, Paul wrestled for Hall of Famer Dick Rhoades. He was Coach Rhoades' first State champion.

After his competitive wrestling career was over, Paul became a referee. Paul was a highly respected and outstanding wrestling official. During his 37 years as a referee, Paul spent more than a dozen years officiating district and regional championships, as well as five State championships.

Paul is retired and resides in Milesburg, Pennsylvania. He is active in his community and was a coach for the Bald Eagle Wrestling Club for several years.

Mr. Speaker, from one Hall of Famer to another, congratulations, Paul, on this well-deserved honor.

PENNSYLVANIA'S FIFTH DISTRICT CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION WINNERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the winners of the Pennsylvania Fifth Congressional District Congressional Art Competition.

On Saturday, an independent panel of judges viewed 37 submissions of artwork at the Winkler Gallery of Fine Art in DuBois, Pennsylvania. Entries were at an all-time high this year, and I am so proud of all of our students who showcased their talent in this competition.

First place goes to Cassy Lester of Reynoldsville for her acrylic painting titled "Chocolate Lab." Cassy is a student at Jeff Tech, a career and technology education center, and her teacher is Ms. Angela Dragich.

Congratulations, Cassy. We look forward to hosting you here in Washington, D.C., with the rest of the winners from throughout the Nation.

Proudly, Cassy's artwork will hang in the tunnel to the Capitol for 1 year.

The other runners up are Madelyn Ostermann of Fort LeBoeuf High School for her entry titled "Eyes," and Alexander Spangler of Bellefonte Area High School for his entry titled "Tracks of Ingenuity."

We also had several honorable mentions, including "Self Portrait" by Megan DiNicola of Fort LeBoeuf High School, "True Colors" by Maggie Prutzal of Punxsutawney Area High School, "Jungle Scene" by Allison Copella of DuBois Area High School, "Emmaleigh" by Kailynn Morrison of Oil City High School, "Wondrous Wonders" by Willow Felter of Fort LeBoeuf High School, "Wonderwall" by Cassidy Hall of Fort LeBoeuf High School, and "Thomas L. Kelly" by Margaret Morgenstern of Fort LeBoeuf High School.

Mr. Speaker, each spring the Congressional Art Competition takes place, hosted by the Congressional Institute. The nationwide high school visual art competition recognizes and encourages artistic talent in the Nation and in each congressional district.

Since the Artistic Discovery competition began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated. The vision, talent, and creativity of our high school students always makes me so proud.

Thank you to all the students from Pennsylvania's Fifth Congressional District who shared their masterpieces this weekend, and I hope to see you again next year if you are eligible to showcase your work.

Mr. Speaker, I offer congratulations to our first-place winner, Cassy.

THE BUDGET DOES NOT HAVE MY VOTE

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, I will admit that I am pleased that the deal

□ 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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worked out between Democratic leadership and Republicans to keep the government open until October does not include funding for the President's "tremendous" border wall. But let's put that in perspective.

A border wall will not deport thousands of people living and working in cities across the Nation or moms and dads in my neighborhood. A border wall will not deport anyone, and I seriously doubt it would do any good keeping anyone out, either.

Building a 3,000-mile wall is a hugely expensive boondoggle to solve a policy problem many say we don't have. Border apprehensions have been going down steadily for years, and now we have people fleeing violence and persecution who are so scared of us they are deciding not to come to America and are applying for asylum somewhere else. They are not taking their legitimate claims for political asylum and safety to the Nation that is the hallmark of freedom.

So while even Donald Trump admits that border apprehensions are significantly down, he says, 75 percent, it is not necessarily for reasons we should be proud of.

But a wall? Are policy experts and pundits really discussing whether fifth century technology plays a role in modern homeland security? The Great Wall of China boosts tourism. It is not a factor in national security.

What concerns me more is the spending on deportation that is still in the bill we will be voting on today. \$1.2 billion of Trump's original \$3 billion request for border security and interior enforcement is still there. Any money we give those agencies at this point will find its way into funding the President's mass deportation agenda.

Now, imagine if we were applauding the approval of a budget that had \$1.2 billion in new funding to roll back *Roe v. Wade*, additional funding from the Federal Government to restrict women's healthcare and reproductive rights. Well, I would never vote for that budget.

But what if Trump asked us for \$3 billion but we only gave him \$1.2 billion to undermine workplace safety laws and labor rights? I would never do that.

Let's just say it was \$1.2 billion to defeat environmental regulations that protect clean air and water. Would we celebrate? I don't think so.

Would we celebrate \$1.2 billion in additional money to weaken the Civil Rights and Voting Rights Acts? Would we celebrate more money to combat and weaken same-sex marriage or take away transgender rights? I wouldn't.

Adding \$1.2 billion to the budget to make it easier for the U.S. Government to deport people should never be celebrated by any of us, and certainly not in the era of Trump when we know their number one policy priority is to scare immigrants into leaving or not coming in the first place.

Look, the people who will be deported with the money we are voting

on are usually people with no criminal background and deep roots in their communities. They are parents, teachers, businessowners, mostly people of color, who have lived and worked here a long time and are here, in many cases, seeking refuge, as is their right under our laws and international law.

Yes, some are dangerous criminals, but don't believe the hype. The Trump administration and Attorney General Jeff Sessions are overhauling who we define as serious criminals so they can make their deportation force look benign and sometimes even beneficial.

Mr. Speaker, I will not be voting for the omnibus bill because I don't believe that it is okay to slip another billion here or there into the budget to break up and destroy families, put moms and dads in detention, and send DREAMers out of the country—the only country they have ever known.

I have looked into the eyes of children, of kids, U.S. citizens, whose parents have been deported. I have spoken to teachers in Chicago and across the country who have to deal with the fear in their students' lives every day. I have worked for decades with families who have complied—yes, for decades, I have worked with families who have complied with every order they have been given by Homeland Security and have reported to authorities like clockwork, but now when they report, they are deported from the United States of America.

I cannot turn around and bless more money for the machinery that is grinding up families. I just won't do it. And I will not turn my back on the immigrant community of the United States of America by supporting funding that will be used to detain immigrants in private jails and put them on airplanes out of the country.

Mr. Speaker, as long as we are going to shortchange health care in Puerto Rico and subsidize the deportation of families in Chicago, the budget will not have my vote.

SUPPORTING BACKBONE OF AMERICAN ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the backbone of the American economy: small business.

Whether I meet with an owner of a family restaurant that has been on the same street corner for 50 years or a programmer for a startup tech company trying to land its first big break, I am always inspired by the amount of dedication and ingenuity that goes into running a small business. These men and women work hard, and their passion can always be seen in the products and services that they produce.

The district I serve is home to so many thriving small businesses, and each one has a great story behind it. Such is the case with M.J. Neill, Incorporated,

a family-owned heating company located in Bernardsville, New Jersey. This is M.J. Neill's 100th anniversary.

Business has not always been easy for M.J. Neill. The company has been overcoming obstacles since David W. Neill started it in 1917. It has had to navigate through the Great Depression, the OPEC oil crisis, and the 2008 financial crisis. It has had to make the move from coal to more efficient fuels. But through four generations, M.J. Neill has always been able to adapt and expand its business.

M.J. Neill continues to be a household name in heating in the Bernardsville area. It caters to other local small businesses and families all around Somerset and Morris Counties, and it is known for its 24/7 service and family-oriented approach. Some of its customers even date back to when the company first began, testament to the value of the honest service that M.J. Neill provides.

Today I congratulate current owner David Neill on the centennial of the company. The entrepreneurial spirit and innovation the Neill family has exhibited over the past 100 years is truly exemplary and serves as an example to all of us.

The stories we hear about successful small businesses are not the only evidence we have that they are pivotal to our economy. The statistics also prove that point.

We have over 29 million small businesses in the United States, and nearly two-thirds of the jobs created in this country come from those businesses. It is undeniable that a thriving small business sector is critical to bolstering employment in this country.

The same is true in New Jersey, which is home to 843,000 small businesses, accounting for over 99 percent of the total businesses in the State. These same small businesses employ 1.8 million people in New Jersey, more than half of our total workforce.

With so many people relying on work from our small business community, it only makes sense that Congress does everything possible to support them. That is why we must use this week, National Small Business Week, to continue to talk about the ways we can help rid small businesses of harmful regulations and equip them with the tools they need to grow and to prosper.

Last year we made great strides in the House by passing legislation such as the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act and the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, but we need to do more. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to come together to support pro-small business legislation. Families like the Neills work hard their entire lives to serve their communities. It is imperative that those of us in Congress work to serve them as well.