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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. JODY B. HICE of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 5, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JODY B. HICE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Lasky, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill (S. 371) "An Act to make technical changes and other improvements to the Department of State Authorities Act, Fiscal Year 2017."

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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CONGRATULATING ALEC BAKER ON BEAR RESEARCH PROJECT

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 to acknowledge the work of a student at Penn State DuBois.

Alec Baker, a native of Clarion, Pennsylvania, is a student in the wildlife technology degree program at Penn State DuBois. He was recently awarded an Erickson Discovery Grant from Penn State's Office of Undergraduate Education for an independent research project.

Alec's area of study focused on black bears and the impact the bears have on agriculture and farmers in Pennsylvania, particularly, the Commonwealth's corn crop. Alec conducted the project this summer for the Pennsylvania Game Commission and gathered information in the field through October. He is processing his findings this fall.

Alec has conducted his research primarily using Clarion County as his study area. He has obtained nuisance bear reports for crop damage from the area dating back to the year 2000. He plans to chart trends in the data through these years and monitor sites for continued activity using cameras.

In total, 219 students applied to receive an Erickson Discovery Grant this year, and Alec was one of 83 students from all Penn State locations and campuses who received a grant. The Erickson Discovery Grant allows students to immerse themselves in original research under the direct supervision of a faculty member in order to obtain hands-on experience in their chosen field.

Alec has just completed his sophomore year in the wildlife technology associate degree program and will go on to earn a bachelor's degree in wildlife and fishery science.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Alec Baker for undertaking this important area of study. I have no doubt that his re-

search will help farmers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania better protect their crops from bear-related damage. Pennsylvania has one of the largest populations of black bears in North America, and thanks to studies like Alec's, the Commonwealth will be better able to understand how bears influence agriculture and how farmers can implement better management tactics to protect their crops.

I congratulate Alec for his achievement and all those who received the Erickson Discovery Award, and I look forward to the results.

RETREATING AMERICA

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is sad to watch the Trump administration leading America in retreat, withdrawing positions of international leadership, hollowing out the State Department, crippling us for years to come.

Last night, there was an example of that retreat right here on the floor of the House as our Republican friends were unable to address their plan for raising taxes for Americans in every State by restricting their ability to deduct State and local taxes. Why force millions of Americans to pay taxes on taxes?

Why, Mr. Speaker, is there a proposal to destabilize insurance rates across America, leading to 10 percent premium increases year after year, and to have up to 13 million additional uninsured Americans over the course of the next 10 years?

They have no answer as to why to mortgage our children's future for greater benefits for the richest and most privileged Americans. When corporations are recording record-high profits and have trillions of dollars of

□ 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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profits overseas, why are we borrowing to provide more benefits to the largest corporations and wealthiest people while we are ignoring the people who visit our offices every day seeking not a sympathetic ear, but action, for example, action on the opioid crisis and the epidemic of opioid deaths claiming 64,000 Americans last year?

Our former colleague, Patrick Kennedy, whose advocacy is informed by his own struggle to overcome opioid addiction, will testify today in the other body that we could easily productively spend up to \$200 billion more dealing with the crisis, helping people with recovery. The Senate is proposing to increase one ten-thousandth of that amount—not \$200 billion, but \$20 million—to deal with this crisis because we don't have the money, yet we are borrowing \$1.5 trillion to give additional tax benefits to those who need them the least.

We are not being able to adequately help our veterans, whose needs are clear to anybody who visits the Veterans Administration hospital in their State, or provide investments in roads and bridges and transit or in water and sewer that would strengthen every community, make it safer and business more competitive.

Good policy and effective investment is possible if we are not mortgaging our children's future, borrowing vast sums of money to lavish more tax reductions on people who don't need it, while ignoring the needs of people who do, who visit offices every day here on Capitol Hill.

America does not have to be in retreat, claiming poverty, that we are helpless to meet the needs of the American people, if Congress finds the courage and the will to do its job.

SANCTUARY CITIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am rising today to talk about an issue that women are talking about every single day, and as I am home and out and about in my district, I hear this repeatedly. They will come up to me and they will say: MARSHA, I am becoming a security mom. I fear for the security of my children. I am concerned about what is happening on our streets and in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you, last week, after the verdict came down in the Kate Steinle trial, the fact that a criminal illegal alien was not found guilty, I received so many comments and calls from people saying something needs to be done about this because justice was not delivered for the life of Kate Steinle.

That brings us to the issue of sanctuary cities and those policies, the very idea that some elected officials or some cities could choose to say: We will become a haven for those who are

outside of Federal law—but not all Federal law, just this particular Federal law.

That defies common sense. It defies reason because we are a nation of laws, a nation that abides by the rule of law, a nation of law and order—not of anarchy.

Sanctuary city policies are making America less safe. On this, there should be no doubt. We have to think: What does this example set for our country? What does it say to people who abide by the law, who feel that their lives are endangered, that their security is endangered? What kind of message do sanctuary policies send to the thin blue line, people who stand to protect us every single day?

I would suggest that sanctuary city policies are cracking the foundation of our democracy. It is why it is important that this body take action. I would suggest it is why it is important that we pass the CLEAR Act, legislation I have authored that would strip sanctuary cities of funding, that would require that criminal illegal aliens be deported from this country.

HONORING MAYOR WILLIAM V. BELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor and recognize a great American, a visionary, a statesman, and a friend, Mayor William V. Bell, better known as Mayor Bill Bell. Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, my friend Bill Bell ended 16 years of distinguished service as mayor of the city of Durham, North Carolina, located in my congressional district.

Mr. Speaker, Durham has always been a progressive city, a city where I attended undergraduate school and law school at North Carolina Central University. Durham has always been a progressive city, above the average, but under Bill Bell's leadership, the city has become a thriving Southern city rivaling Charlotte and even Atlanta, Georgia.

Bill Bell's work as mayor is but part of a long tenure of service to Durham that spans more than four decades. This week, I join the entire Durham community in thanking Mayor Bill Bell for his many, many years of public service. With Mayor Bell's retirement last evening, December 4, 2017, he leaves his office having literally transformed the Durham community.

The city's leadership has now been passed to a new mayor, Steve Schewel, who is also a friend and a visionary leader. The city of Durham, North Carolina, is in good hands.

Born William V. Bell in 1941, Bill grew up in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He received a degree in electrical engineering from Howard University here in Washington, D.C., and then went on to receive his master's degree

in electrical engineering from New York University. After graduating, Bill returned to North Carolina, where he worked as a senior engineer at IBM Corporation in Durham.

Bill Bell has been a community development trailblazer not only as mayor, but as vice president and chief operating officer of United Durham Incorporated since 1996, where he used the acronym UDI.

Even during his days as a young engineer, Bill Bell had a unique vision for his beloved community. This vision led to Bill's election to the Durham County Board of Commissioners in 1972. At the time, Bill was one of two African-American commissioners on the five-member board. Bill Bell served on the board of county commissioners until 1994, and again from 1996 to the year 2000, even serving as its chairman from 1982 to 1994.

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In 2001, Mr. Speaker, Bill Bell was elected mayor of the city of Durham. He was then reelected seven—yes, that is seven—times, serving as Durham's longest serving mayor for 16 years.

Mayor Bill Bell will be remembered for leading the city of Durham toward great progress. His legacy includes heading up the transformation of downtown Durham from boarded-up windows to a city which is a top destination and is now home to a variety of thriving businesses and technology startups as well as major projects, such as the Durham Performing Arts Center and the American Tobacco Campus.

It is a thriving city, Mr. Speaker, and I encourage anyone to take a look at Durham and see how impressive this city is. From leading the transformation of downtown Durham to placing a renewed emphasis on even addressing gun violence in the community, Mayor Bell has always fought to improve the lives of his constituents.

It has been a pleasure to work with Mayor Bell on behalf of the citizens of Durham in the first district. The Durham community is stronger thanks to Bill Bell's leadership. He is, without a doubt, a visionary trailblazer who will go down in history having left a positive mark on his city.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, Mayor Bill Bell turned over the office now to Mayor Steve Schewel. Mayor Schewel served on the Durham City Council since 2011, and I know he will continue to build on this legacy.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I am told that Mayor Bell's daughters, Tiffany Bell, Anjane Nicole Bell, and Kristen Vaughan Bell-Hughes, are all excited about their dad's decision to enjoy a life of retirement. I don't believe Bill Bell is going to actually retire. I am sure he is going to spend less time in public service, but I am sure he will continue his advocacy in some significant way.

While Bill Bell is deserving of far greater accolades than I have just recited over the last few minutes, I ask