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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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 26, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GLENN THOMPSON 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 8, 2018, 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.

STOP POLLUTING TREASURE COAST

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because it is the 24th day that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has intentionally discharged toxic water from Lake Okeechobee in Florida's interior into the Treasure Coast of Florida, which is my community.

Today, I have a group of warriors with me, the River Kidz. They are here in Washington fighting to show that

what is happening in our community is not okay. It is not right, and it is not just.

The River Kidz are a group of young people from the Treasure Coast of Florida whose health and community have been threatened. While many kids across the country right now are gearing up to go to camp this summer or spending their days on a boat or at a beach or fishing, our kids are doing all that they can to avoid contact with our water because every single day our water is being made more and more toxic.

As we speak, there is a toxic algae bloom over 100 miles in diameter laden with cyanobacteria. It is being drained into Florida's east coast, and, in fact, as we speak, satellite imagery shows that nearly half of the entire lake of Lake Okeechobee is covered in algae. It is a threat to the health of every single man, woman, and child who is exposed to it.

The toxic algae blooms are also devastating to threatened species like manatee who inhabit our waters but cannot escape from the water. The billions of gallons of discharge that is evacuated from Lake Okeechobee into the coastal estuary wipes out our entire estuary of seagrass the way a wildfire wipes out a forest, leaving no habitat for the rest of the sea life that is meant to exist there.

Mr. Speaker, you might be wondering: Why would anybody in Washington care about this beyond to say for a few moments what a sad situation it really is? Washington needs to care. Washington needs to care because this is a situation that is created by the fact that Florida's water system is functioning exactly the way that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers designed the system to function.

In other words, this is happening on purpose. The Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, which is what the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses to decide

when and where water out of Lake Okeechobee will be discharged into places it does not belong, is designed to "share adversity."

Let me say that again. The Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule is designed to share adversity.

Shared adversity means shared toxic water into a community that did not share at all in the polluting of the source of the toxic water. Mr. Speaker, let me explain this in a way that people here in Washington, people here in the Capitol, can relate to.

It would be like if a Senator on the other half of this building flushed their toilet over there, and instead of sending that sewage into pipes that go underneath the street and into a water treatment plant, the Corps of Engineers set up a system here where they had a pipe that dumped the sewage onto the floor of the House of Representatives. That is what shared adversity by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers looks like.

In the case of my community, it is not just a pipe, though. It is millions of gallons a minute that destroys our environment, destroys our economy, destroys small businesses, and affects the health, as I said already, of every single man, woman, and child who comes in contact with the water, and it threatens our entire way of life.

The Treasure Coast of Florida can no longer be forced to share adversity that they played no role in creating. The River Kidz, myself, and the entire Treasure Coast of Florida demand that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stop immediately its willful pollution of our home that is done on behalf of others.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH BRACKETT

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

□ 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. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, perhaps now more than ever, we need to recognize the critical role a free press plays in our democracy and those who play that role so well.

Today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of an award-winning journalist and dedicated public servant, Elizabeth Brackett, who died on June 17, following a tragic accident. Her death is already being felt by her colleagues at WTTW, the entire Chicago journalism community, and all of the Illinois residents who have relied on her reporting for unparalleled insight into the pressing challenges that confront our Nation and our world.

Working at four television stations spanning five decades, Elizabeth was an accomplished journalist and news program host who asked public officials questions that really matter.

In the past, people have asked if I am afraid of a journalist who raises tough questions. The answer is no. I'm afraid of a journalist who asks the wrong questions, who doesn't know what questions to ask.

Elizabeth was a journalist's journalist who knew not only what to ask, but how and why. Her thoughtful, smart, and incredibly well-researched approach made us all better at our jobs.

After retiring from her full-time position at "Chicago Tonight" in 2014, Elizabeth continued to contribute to the network primarily on environmental topics, such as the health of the lakes in which she frequently swam.

In particular, I remember one of the most recent interviews in 2017 when she asked me about efforts to keep Asian carp out of the Great Lakes. It was Elizabeth who asked me about the environmental impacts in such detail and accuracy, providing viewers, listeners, and readers alike with an in-depth understanding of the invasive species, a critical issue for our Great Lakes.

"Resourceful" and "passionate" were two words often used to describe her. Carol Marin, Elizabeth's colleague at "Chicago Tonight," said it best: "Elizabeth was always going to be your competitor. She was out there to get the story, get it first, and get the story best. That is what made her so good at what she did."

In addition to journalism, her ambition was, front and center, in her unmistakable athleticism. She began competing in triathlons at the age of 50 and became a national champion in her age group.

From beginning her broadcast career in 1977 as a researcher at WBBM-TV to becoming a weekend anchor and going on to win national Emmy and Peabody awards, Elizabeth was an institution.

I extend my thoughts to her husband, Peter Martinez, and her entire family, including 10 grandchildren.

She was a role model and a force for truth. We will all miss her expertise and energy both in and out of the news studio.

CONGRATULATING DR. BILL LAWRENCE

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

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to congratulate Dr. Bill Lawrence on his retirement after over 30 years as a principal in southwest Alabama.

For the last 21 years, Dr. Lawrence worked as principal of Foley Elementary School in Baldwin County. Prior to that, he served for 10 years at W. H. Council Traditional School in Mobile County.

Being a principal is a tough job, but Dr. Lawrence thrived in the role throughout his career. He overcame many obstacles and always provided steady leadership for his students, teachers, faculty, and parents. I know that personally because I am one of those parents.

Dr. Lawrence would always go above and beyond the job description. He said that one of his proudest accomplishments was starting the Turkey Take-out program to help provide families in poverty with a free Thanksgiving meal.

On behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District and the countless students positively impacted by Dr. Lawrence over his career, including my daughter, Laura, I want to wish him all the best upon his retirement.

Foley Elementary School and public education in Alabama will not be the same without him.

CONGRATULATING VICTOR HELMSING

Mr. BYRNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Victor Helmsing on his retirement after 35 years serving as a teacher at St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile.

Throughout his time at St. Paul's, he held a range of teaching positions, including everything from senior government and economics to AP U.S. Government and politics, to Western civilization.

He also helped lead various extra-curricular programs, including the Key Club for 28 years, and serving as senior class sponsor for 35 straight years. He has also been a leader among his peers, serving as chair of various administrative committees.

During various time periods, Victor served as associate headmaster, assistant headmaster, and director of the upper school, but his true passion has always rested in the classroom. I know every former student has their own story about something Victor Helmsing taught them or a way he had a lasting impact on their lives. That is just the type of teacher and leader he has always been.

So on behalf of Alabama's First Congressional District, I want to wish Victor and his wife, Vaughan, all the best upon his retirement. His impact on St. Paul's and his former students will be felt for years to come.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF DR. JOSHUA FELDSTEIN

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Dr. Joshua Feldstein, president emeritus of Delaware Valley University, who passed away on June 19 at the age of 97.

Born in Lithuania and raised in Belarus, Dr. Feldstein was the very embodiment of the American Dream. After fleeing Nazi persecution, Dr. Feldstein arrived in Bucks County, where he eventually received degrees in horticulture and agricultural mechanics before earning a doctorate at Rutgers University.

Dr. Feldstein's legacy is one of diversity and expanding civil rights. In the 1960s, he played a significant role in the university's admission of women, and upon taking the helm as president in 1975, he oversaw the expansion of women faculty members.

More than anything, Dr. Feldstein was a man of kindness and good faith who relentlessly sought to open doors and brighten futures for the students who attended the school he cared so deeply about.

I send my condolences to Dr. Feldstein's sons, Ted and Dan, along with the rest of his family and the entire DelVal community. May they take comfort in knowing his life was one extraordinarily well lived.

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2018 GRADUATES OF BUCKS COUNTY TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 2018 graduates of Bucks County Technical High School, who graduated last week.

Watched by over 1,000 family members and friends, the nearly 300 graduates walked across the aisle at the CURE Insurance Arena to receive their diplomas.

I am proud to report that this impressive class earned approximately \$1.2 million in scholarships, and 72 percent of the class is moving on to continue their education.

I would especially like to recognize the students who have decided to join the Armed Services, and I speak on behalf of all of us in Bucks County when I say we appreciate your dedication to service and passion for keeping America safe.

I also applaud Principal Robert Azar and Administrative Director Dr. Leon Poeske for their work in molding the minds of the next generation.

I wish the 2018 graduates of Bucks County Technical High School and all of those who are graduating this year the best of luck in their next chapters. I encourage them to use their skills to strive to make our communities a better place.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING IRENE MOLLOY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent,