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No. 14

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 23, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUZAN K. DELBENE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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.

SUPPORT THE OIL REGION NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA REAUTHORIZATION ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, northwest Pennsylvania has a rich history and a vibrant, diverse economy. Its winding trails, beautiful landscapes, recreational experiences, and thriving communities make Venango and Crawford Counties especially captivating places to live, to

work, and to visit. Many of these attractions are centered around the same central common theme: the world's first commercial oil well.

Colonel Drake successfully drilled this well in 1859, triggering the first oil boom and establishing the Oil Region as "the valley that changed the world." His efforts not only made northwest Pennsylvania the energy powerhouse that it is today, but also sparked a cultural revolution that came as a result of a booming economy.

We are tremendously proud of our history and heritage in northwest Pennsylvania. We still celebrate these historic communities that bloomed from Colonel Drake's innovative idea, and Drake Well continues to have a tangible impact on the area's economy.

In 2004, Congress designated the region as a national heritage area. There are only 49 of these areas across the country that are designated as places where natural, cultural, and historic resources combine to form a cohesive nationally important landscape.

The Oil Region national heritage area was the Nation's 25th national heritage area, and it celebrates the birth of the petroleum industry. The region is honored to have this important designation, but without action, it will sunset next year. That is why I have introduced H.R. 642, the Oil Region National Heritage Area Reauthorization Act.

The heritage area's coordinating entity, the Oil Region Alliance of Business, Industry, and Tourism, has taken a grassroots, community-driven approach to heritage conservation and economic development. Through public-private partnerships, national heritage area entities support historic preservation, natural resource conservation, recreation, heritage tourism, and educational projects. These partnerships foster pride of place and an enduring stewardship ethic.

The Oil Region Alliance focuses on heritage development, economic development, and tourism destination marketing. All three of these areas have been successful, and from 2005 to 2015, ORA has been able to invest more than \$6.8 million in heritage development projects, invest more than \$6.7 million in economic development activities, and attract nearly 240,000 visitors, annually. They have done an excellent job using innovative methods to stimulate the local economy, using a mixture of both Federal and private funds.

Last year, Congressman MIKE KELLY and I visited the home of the legendary investigative journalist Ida Tarbell. Born in Pennsylvania at the onset of the oil boom, Tarbell is best known for her 1904 book, "The History of the Standard Oil Company."

The ORA had recently completed a full restoration of Ms. Tarbell's home, ensuring that it would be preserved for generations to come. This restoration was just one of many projects the ORA is working on, and my bill will allow these projects to continue through 2026.

Extending this funding is crucial for the ORA to continue its mission of preserving the Oil Region's history, stimulating the local economy, and allowing others to appreciate the beauty and culture of Venango and Crawford Counties.

The ORA's efforts give us the ability to appreciate the rich history of northwestern Pennsylvania and understand the impact that our community has had on American culture today. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation, which will directly impact northwestern Pennsylvanians and preserve a rich heritage for all Americans.

STATIC WALLS DON'T WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFazio) 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. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, well, the President is increasingly focused in messaging on the need for the wall as being the shipment of illegal drugs into the United States of America and the drug epidemic. I think we are all concerned about that, and we would all like to do something effective to deal with it.

Now, as his current acting chief of staff said when he was a Member of Congress about a wall: You go under—tunnels—you go through or over, and what you need is more manpower, more technology.

So the President says we need a stupid, static wall at extraordinary costs. Actually, we need something else. What we need are effective measures.

The Department of Homeland Security says they need \$5 billion to reconfigure our ports of entry and to bring in new technology.

El Chapo's lieutenants and others have testified at his trial in New York they don't go across remote desert areas. They buy semi-tractor trailers and they reconfigure them and bring them through the ports of entry. They are very efficient. And that is how they are getting drugs into this country.

We lack the personnel and the equipment to detect these shipments. So how about investing there?

Oh, and by the way, the people who are screening at the ports of entry, 8 percent of the vehicles is all they can screen today. Probably less today because they aren't getting paid, and some of them can't show up to work because they can't hire childcare or they can't fix their car to get to work or something else.

So the President is concerned? Really? I don't think so.

And then there is another way that drugs are more and more frequently coming into our country. As you can see from this display of drugs here, the Coast Guard intercepted \$5.6 billion of drugs coming in on maritime routes last year. But the retiring Commandant said that is only about 20 percent of the drug shipments we can identify. We don't have the personnel or the proper equipment to intercept the other 80 percent.

Oh, by the way, the Coast Guard, they are not getting paid either.

But the President is concerned. Well, has he talked about the need to give more resources to the United States Coast Guard?

So, hey, it would be great if they get \$5.7 billion, and that is one-fifth of the drugs they can identify. That would be \$25 billion of drugs being intercepted next year if they had the equipment, the personnel they needed—five times the cost of a stupid, static wall.

So if the President is truly concerned about cartels and Asian mobs shipping drugs into the United States, he should be talking about putting money where it is needed: at the ports of entry, the Coast Guard for maritime interception, and other places where it would be more effective.

That is the position of the Democrats. We want to have effective 21st century border security, not a failed wall. That has been tried by a number of civilizations.

Static walls don't work. Let's do real things to deal with the real problem.

CNN—THE FAKE NEWS KING

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, while CNN has had a rotten, no-good, horrible week, the American people have had a great week because last week exposed the CNN vitriol, prejudice, bias, and deception that crowned CNN the fake news king. First, CNN fake news story number 1:

For 2 days, CNN drooled over President Trump's impeachment propaganda in a BuzzFeed report that was so bad it prompted a rare public rebuke and "not true" proclamation by Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

CNN, strike one.

Second, CNN fake news story number two:

CNN viciously and wrongly attacked, ridiculed, slandered, and maligned Covington Catholic High School students by portraying them as racists. By and large, these teenagers at a pro-life march were White males, Catholic, and, heaven forbid, President Trump supporters with Make America Great Again hats.

CNN's prejudice against this profile blinded CNN to reality. Had CNN done its homework, CNN would have reported from the very beginning that the students were the victims of African American racists who hurled insults at and sought to intimidate White teenage students and were the victims of Native American political activists who rudely accosted the students, beat a drum in their faces, and yelled that White people should leave America.

Did fake news CNN report from the very beginning this racism against White people and how remarkably well these Catholic high school students handled this situation and maintained their composure? No. Sadly, CNN's bias and prejudice did not allow that.

CNN, strike two.

Third, CNN fake news story number three:

CNN did a poorly researched fact check on illegal alien and border security crime data comments by various Republicans, including me. The segment opened with "New Day" host Alisyn Camerota deriding "fact-free fear-mongering" from "Trump supporters."

Really? If you support border security and protecting American lives, you are a fact-free, fear-mongering Trump supporter who must be attacked at all costs? Is that really CNN's viewpoint?

CNN's John Avlon then falsely claimed that I said a border wall is the

way to keep death-dealing drugs out of America, when I clearly stated a border wall is a necessary subpart of a broader border security strategy required to slow down drugs crossing over our southern border and save American lives.

That truth didn't fit CNN's blind fealty to open-border, socialist Democrats, so CNN deceived rather than tell the truth.

CNN next showed me stating that Federal officers apprehended roughly 2,000 illegal aliens per year for homicides on American soil. That is fine. That is true.

Federal Government's Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Removal Operations reports state Federal officers apprehended 1,886 illegal aliens in FY 2017 and 2,028 illegal aliens in FY 2018 for homicides committed on American soil.

But CNN's John Avlon attacked this Federal crime data by citing an unrelated PolitiFact analysis and making an apples and oranges comparison that misunderstands the difference between the words "homicide" and "murder."

Well, all murders are homicides. Not all homicides are murders. Murders are a subpart of the word "homicides."

In any event, the PolitiFact analysis involved another person, not any of us, and was about murders not homicides and disagreed with nothing that I said.

CNN strike three. You are out.

Madam Speaker, is CNN the most trusted name in news as it claims? No. Not when its reporters, fact-checkers, and newscasters are so blinded by vitriol, prejudice, bias, and hatred for President Trump that they cannot think or see straight; not so long as CNN is nothing more than an apparatchik for radical, open-border, socialist Democrats, not the truth and not the American people.

Madam Speaker, CNN has earned its fake news crown, and based on last week, is not at risk of losing its crown anytime soon.

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HONORING SERGEANT WYTASHA CARTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Sergeant Wytasha Carter, a 16-year veteran of the Birmingham Police Department, who lost his life, tragically, in the line of duty on January 13, 2019.

Wyt, as his family and friends fondly called him, was a natural-born leader with whom others enjoyed working. Sergeant Carter was a Birmingham native who graduated from Phillips High School before attending Liberty University.

Sergeant Carter was drawn to service from a young age. After graduating from college, he served in the United