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HONORING SARATOGA'S MARYLOU WHITNEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. STEFANIK) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Marylou Whitney, the "Queen of Saratoga," who, sadly, passed away on July 19 at the age of 93.

Marylou embodied the spirit of a revitalized Saratoga. She was graceful, classic, sparkling, full of joy, and truly one of a kind. Most of all, she loved her community and gave so much of herself to it.

She had a passion for horse racing and was a fixture of the Saratoga Race Course. She hosted a yearly racing season ball for many decades, where proceeds benefited track workers and local organizations like Saratoga Hospital. She was active and involved in philanthropy until her last months.

Her generosity, energy, and compassion were unmatched. She was the founder of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center and the National Museum of Dance.

Marylou often called Saratoga one of her favorite homes, and those of us in the community are unsurprised by this. It is a community like no other, and Marylou made it better for all of us. Her deep commitment will leave a mark on Saratoga for generations to come.

I want to express my sincere condolences to Marylou's husband, John Hendrickson, and her entire family.

I consider it an honor to have known Marylou Whitney and an honor to speak her memory into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. She will be missed.

HONORING ADIRONDACK'S RANDY PRESTON

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life of Randy Preston, Wilmington Town supervisor, former chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors, former volunteer firefighter, former fire chief, and fierce advocate for Essex County and the Adirondack region.

After a long, courageous fight with an aggressive brain tumor, Randy, sadly, passed away on July 18. He was 60 years old.

He was a bipartisan leader on behalf of Essex County. He voted for the interests of the people, was beholden to no one, and let no one deter him. He was, undoubtedly, a champion for those he represented.

Randy's missions and advocacies for the Adirondack region were innumerable. He was passionate about lowering our tax burden and ensuring we had ample funding for lifesaving emergency medical services.

He was known not only for his staunch advocacy but for his sense of humor, his unapologetic convictions,

and his willingness to shoot straight and be honest with people, whether a Governor or a Congresswoman.

He was quick to tell me when he thought a policy was right for his community and just as quick to tell me when he thought a policy was wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I express my deepest sympathies to Randy's wife, Michelle, and his entire family. It is a sincere honor to enter Randy Preston's memory and achievements into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HONORING MARIANO RIVERA, FIRST UNANIMOUS INDUCTEE INTO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

Ms. STEFANIK. Mr. Speaker, the hallowed halls of the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York, welcomed six inductees last weekend.

In 80 years, baseball has honored 232 players as the best of the best. Only about 1 percent of the 19,500 who played the game are enshrined here.

As a proud New Yorker, I can say the hall includes 60 Yankees, and the bronze busts of Bronx Bomber behemoths include Ruth, Berra, Gehrig, Mantle, DiMaggio, Jackson, and more.

I rise today to honor Mariano Rivera, the first unanimous inductee into the Hall of Fame.

Mo, the Sandman, wore the Yankee pinstripes with honor, pride, humility, and dignity for 19 seasons. On the field, number 42 was a 13-time All-Star and won five World Series championships with the Yankees, including being named MVP in 1999.

Mo racked up a record 672 saves. His cutter is legendary. He amassed 1,173 strikeouts and had a postseason ERA of 0.7, allowing only 11 runs in 96 appearances, fewer postseason runs than the number of people who have walked the Moon.

Mo was the very definition of "automatic," as he was so often described.

Mariano is a man of faith and recognized the importance of family support through good times and struggles. He is a mentor, a teacher, and demonstrates quiet leadership that is far too scarce today.

Mr. Speaker, as a young boy in Panama, Mariano used a homemade glove of cardboard, tape, and netting. He had holes in his cleats when he tried out for the Yankees.

Through grit, hard work, and dogged determination, Mo achieved the very pinnacle of greatness in America's greatest game. He is the embodiment of the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Mr. Sandman: Here's to you. I tip my cap.

CONGRATULATING SHAI McDONALD AND BRICE PATTERSON

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

Mr. GIANFORTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two young Montanans who are among the best in rodeo.

In this month's National High School Finals Rodeo in Wyoming, Montana was well represented with competitors from across the State. The National High School Finals Rodeo drew about 1,500 finalists from 43 States, Mexico, Canada, and Australia.

Two Montanans won buckles for placing in the top 10 in their event. Shai McDonald of Gardiner took second in barrel racing, and Brice Patterson of Bozeman took fourth in bareback riding.

Rodeo is a time-honored tradition in Montana, and it is part of our way of life.

The outstanding work ethic and dedication of these young athletes allows them to compete and succeed at this high level.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Shai and Brice on their accomplishments at the National High School Finals Rodeo.

CONGRATULATING ARCHBISHOP NIKITAS LULIAS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Tarpon Springs native and devout University of Florida Gator and inspired Greek Orthodox theologian, Archbishop Nikitas Lulias, who will be enthroned this weekend in London as the Greek Orthodox archbishop of Great Britain under the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople.

Archbishop Nikitas has had a blessed life, which started with the retrieval of the Gold Cross in Tarpon Springs for the 1974 celebration of the Epiphany. His proud parents, my great-aunt and great-uncle, Gus and Kally Lulias, knew at that moment that Nikitas was destined for greatness.

Archbishop Nikitas has had an extraordinary ecclesiastical career. His devotion to orthodoxy and to the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate make him a worthy choice as the archbishop of Great Britain.

I wish this son of Tarpon Springs, Florida, and my constituent and my cousin, a blessed ministry.

Axios, which means worthy.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SAFETY AIRCREWS

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a group of heroes who work tirelessly to keep our country and communities safe.

Public safety aircrews ensure the safety of our domestic airspace, repeatedly operating in very hazardous conditions. They are also an essential form of support for first responders during disaster response and rescue missions.

Today, we honor the dedication and devotion that these public servants demonstrate and acknowledge those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

It is only right that a day is set aside to recognize the thousands of men and women who have served in this role. To that end, I am reintroducing a resolution today to recognize July 26 as National Public Safety Aviation Day.

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RELEASE AUSTIN TICE

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, almost 7 years ago, Austin Tice, an American journalist, disappeared in Syria. Since the day he vanished, his parents, family, friends, and supporters have tirelessly worked to ensure that no stone is left unturned and no avenue ignored in a global campaign to see Austin returned home safely.

As we approach the end of the seventh year of Austin's captivity, we request that whomever continues to hold Austin release him immediately so that he can return to his family and his friends.

We also ask for the assistance of the Government of Syria. I ask that they do whatever they can to help facilitate Austin's release.

There are things that transcend politics and diplomacy, bridge cultural divides, and need no translation across different languages. Those are things like love and hope, represented by a mother and a father who wake up each day with the unshakable faith in their son and the belief that today could be the day when they get the chance to hug him again.

We ask for your help, without the assignment of blame or malice to anyone, so that this year is the last that Austin remains so far from home and from family.

RESTORE OUR PARKS

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Restore Our Parks Act, and I thank Mr. BISHOP for his leadership and partnership on this bill.

I was lucky enough to grow up near one of the crown jewels of our national park system, the Olympic National Park, right in my backyard in the Pacific Northwest. I have seen firsthand how our public lands have captivated both visitors and residents alike and served as key economic drivers for our local communities.

I think there is little doubt that our national parks are some of America's greatest natural and cultural treasures. I am proud that my home State boasts not only Olympic National Park, but also Mount Rainier National Park and North Cascades National Park, true gems of the national park system.

Unfortunately, these crown jewels are getting a bit rusty, and they require our attention to return them to glory. If you have visited one of our parks lately, you will no doubt have noticed that they are facing a good problem.

In 2017, Washington State had a record 8.45 million park visitors, including families, campers, and adventurers, who came to explore our iconic landscapes. While they were there, these visitors spent more than \$500 million, supported more than 6,600 jobs,

and created nearly \$700 million in economic impact.

While this is undeniably great news for Washington's growing outdoor economy, the rise in visitation has also strained our park resources, like roads, interpretive centers, campsites, and trails, that visitors rely on to access and truly experience our parks. If we as a country don't start investing in our parks, I believe we risk loving them to death.

The National Park Service manages more than 400 sites across the country and is facing a nearly \$12 billion backlog in necessary repairs. In Washington State alone, our national parks suffer from nearly \$400 million in deferred repairs needed to restore historical structures, fix eroding trails, fix roads, and update unsafe electrical and drinking water systems.

This significant maintenance backlog threatens the health, accessibility, and safety of our parks, their visitors, and the communities that depend on them. That is why we need to take this opportunity to build on recent successes of investing in our public lands and turn our attention to passing the Restore Our Parks and Public Lands Act.

Passing this legislation sponsored by my good friend from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) will establish a long-term investment in our parks that will create jobs and boost economies throughout Washington State and across this country. An analysis commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts shows that investing in the maintenance of our national parks could create or support more than 3,800 new jobs in Washington State alone and 100,000 jobs across the country.

Now, these days, Congress can hardly agree on what day it is or what color the sky is; but, with 300 Members of the House of Representatives cosponsoring this bill and 40 Members of the Senate, it is crystal clear that this is an area that we might actually see some progress. My hope is that we can get folks behind this and get this done.

RESTORE OUR PARKS

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KILMER for leading off on this particular issue and all the work that he has been doing on this particular concept. It is important.

I am very happy that this bill has 300 cosponsors now here in the House. That is the largest number of cosponsors who have ever supported a bill coming from the Natural Resources Committee. I think there are only 10 other bills that have more cosponsors in the House. It passed our committee on a 36-2 vote and is now awaiting the chance of being heard here on the House floor.

There is a companion bill in the Senate, not quite as good as our ours, that

already has one-third of the Senate as cosponsors of that.

This is an idea whose time has actually come. We talk about the maintenance backlog of our national parks and all of our public lands, including fish and wildlife land, BLM land, and also our national forests.

Especially as we now enter August, when there will be the largest participation of Americans going out to visit these parks and public lands, it is important that their experience be a positive one and not be stopped by broken roads, lack of sewers, lack of facilities, or lack of any kind of access that they may need. That is why it is so significant.

We have almost around \$17 billion of maintenance backlog only in our parks. If you add up the maintenance backlog we have on all other public lands, including our national forests, it is \$30 billion that we would need to spend just to get them to standard—not to do any kind of really human moving it forward, but just to get them to where they are workable, livable, and enjoyable.

That kind of backlog did not take place overnight. There are a lot of people who are simply looking at saying: Well, let's just try and use the same old stuff we have been using for a long time. We will appropriate more money.

That doesn't work. We have developed a significant problem that needs a significant new solution. This solution is one that was coming out of, actually, the administration that has the support of over two-thirds of the House and that has the support of one-third of the Senate. This is one of those things which, all of a sudden, this is a cool idea to solve an existing problem that we have ignored for a number of years.

The goal of this is to take excess—and that is the key word—royalties that are coming from energy production on all Federal lands, all kinds of energy production, whether it is traditional, renewable, onshore, or offshore, any kind of royalties coming into the Federal Government from those. If there is an excess, which means we take the commitments we have already to things like GOMESA and LWCF, and after those are funded, then if there is excess, that excess now goes into a fund to start working at these kinds of problems, to solve our problems with public lands. The restoration fund only receives the amounts after all these other programs have received that.

If there is no excess in the royalties—I clearly doubt that will happen, but if there is no excess in the royalties, then there is no money that goes into this program.

Some people have said this is mandatory spending. No, it is not.

Mandatory spending, by definition, means you have to spend the money whether it appears or not; you have to find it from somewhere else. This is one of those programs that said, if there is excess, then the first billion of this money will go to fund our national