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No. 43

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 4, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable G.K. BUTTERFIELD 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 7, 2020, 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 time equally allocated between the parties 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.

RECOGNIZING EASTERN HANCOCK HIGH SCHOOL LIVESTOCK JUDGING

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize four outstanding agriculture students from Eastern Hancock High School for winning the 4-H livestock judging contest at the Western National Roundup.

Conner Knudson, Hunter Knudson, Reed Hedrick, and Ashtyn Harvey represented the State of Indiana with in-

tegrity and skill. This team competed against 27 other teams from across the Nation and came out victorious.

Congratulations to these future farmers on their tremendous accomplishment. You have made the Sixth District proud.

SCOTT COUNTY, INDIANA, CELEBRATES BICENTENNIAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Scott County, Indiana, on their bicentennial celebration.

In these two centuries, Scott County has become a cornerstone of my Sixth District. With a growing economy, beautiful parks and lakes, and a close community of Hoosiers, Scott County continues to be a great place for all of us to call home.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Scott County on their bicentennial, and here is to the next 200 years.

RUSHVILLE ROTARY CLUB'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Rushville Rotary Club for celebrating 100 years of service.

For a century now, the Rushville Rotary Club has been a pillar of community involvement in the district. The Rotary Club continues to support local service projects around the community and helps students at the Rushville High School.

I want to thank the members of the Rotary Club for their service and dedication to the people of Rushville and congratulate them on their 100th anniversary.

CONGRATULATING MARLIN KOHLMEIER

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Marlin Kohlmeier, who was named the 2019 Volunteer of the Year by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Law Enforcement and the Indiana Hunter Education Association.

Mr. Kohlmeier has been a teacher at South Ripley schools for over 40 years and volunteers his time to teach hunter safety to all the students at South Ripley.

According to his colleagues, Mr. Kohlmeier has a heart of gold, and there is no one more deserving of this honor.

As an avid hunter myself, I want to thank Mr. Kohlmeier for his work educating kids, and extend my congratulations for receiving this award.

RECOGNIZING RAILROAD DAY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Railroad Day on Capitol Hill.

Today, we have 450 industry professionals from railroads, rail labor, rail contractors, and rail supply companies on Capitol Hill fighting for the issues that affect us all.

In my home State of Indiana, we have over 1,200 miles of Class III rail tracks and over 3,800 miles of Class I railroad tracks. As a crossroads of America, our rail industry is one of the busiest in the Nation and contributes to our thriving economy and business development.

I am proud to support policies that increase the safety and efficiency of infrastructure in Indiana and the rest of our great Nation.

We must support our country's railroads so that we can keep America's economy rolling.

CONGRATULATING SAM BENNETT

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sam Bennett of Delta High School for winning the 1-Meter Diving State Title at the 2020 Indiana Swimming and Diving State Meet.

Sam put in the hard work and dedication into his sport to rise from fourth place last year to the number one spot this year.

I wish Sam the best of luck next year as reigning champ for his senior season. I look forward to seeing him continue to make Indiana's Sixth District proud.

□ 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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H1473

LIARS CANNOT BE TOLERATED

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

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am a scientist, and if a scientist stands up and says something that they know is not true, it is a career-ending action. The reason for this is that science always operates at the edge of what is known, so we cannot tolerate liars.

The world is now facing scientific uncertainty in the spread and the severity of the coronavirus. And when the leadership of China confronted the reality of the pandemic, they chose to suppress scientific truth and lie to their people. That cost China and the world the opportunity to slow down and perhaps contain this outbreak.

In the U.S., we were recently exposed to the spectacle of our country's leader making self-serving pronouncements about the coronavirus outbreak that had no basis in scientific fact and that were immediately contradicted by his scientific experts.

As our Nation faces the serious threat of coronavirus, the American people deserve to know that they can trust the information coming from their government, and that the public officials that they elected are putting science ahead of politics or deranged conspiracy theories.

Unfortunately, after 3 years of consistently undermining scientific research and scientific fact, this administration is dangerously deficient in credibility, and that is directly putting the health and well-being of millions of Americans at risk with an opaque and chaotic response to this outbreak.

Just a few weeks ago, the Trump administration presented a budget that would slash almost \$700 million from the Centers for Disease Control, cutting a vital resource that is at the front lines of this public health emergency.

This administration has left critical positions vacant at Homeland Security and the National Security Council, including positions responsible for managing pandemics.

Americans need their elected leaders to spend less time tweeting and more time making sure that government resources are coordinated and fully funded and ready to combat this outbreak.

Soon, the House will move forward to provide emergency funding that matches the scale and the threat of the coronavirus. We must make sure that the President and the administration uses these funds for what they are intended, a comprehensive and aggressive response to managing the coronavirus outbreak and making sure that any future vaccines or treatments are affordable and available to all who need them.

We also must hold the President and his administration accountable for the information they share with the American people. Three years of keeping science and facts at arm's length have rightly made people suspicious of what

comes out of the White House. And now, as Americans worry for the health of themselves and their loved ones, they unfortunately must also worry about whether the information coming from the people that they expect to manage this crisis will be distorted for the President's political purposes.

When a leader lies to the public about important scientific facts, it is not acceptable. It is not cute. It is not just Trump being Trump. It is a dangerous act that puts our public health and our democracy at risk.

RECOGNIZING JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many national cemeteries in Florida, especially the Jacksonville National Cemetery, which is in my district.

These hallowed grounds are sacred to the families of those who have served our country honorably, many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

Recently, the Department of Veterans Affairs ranked the top national cemeteries in the country, and I am proud to report that the Jacksonville National Cemetery of the Southeast District has earned the highest award, which was accepted by Al Richburg, the director of the Jacksonville National Cemetery.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Al and his wonderful team for all the work they do to preserve the final resting places of our Nation's military and creating a beautiful, peaceful, and memorable place for loved ones to visit.

CONGRATULATING WEST NASSAU HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADING TEAM

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the West Nassau High School Cheerleading Team, who recently won the State, National, and World Championships in Orlando.

With nine State titles, the Warriors are tied for the second most championships in the State of Florida. In fact, this is the second year in a row that they have claimed the State, National, and World titles, and they are the first high school in Florida to do so.

The team is spearheaded by Coach Samantha Beazley, who has led West Nassau to now five State championships, three National championships, and two World championships.

On behalf of Florida's Fourth Congressional District, I want to congratulate the West Nassau Warriors on a cheerleading dynasty.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Pastor Ethan Magness, First Christian Church, Johnson City, Tennessee, offered the following prayer:

Gracious God, we come to You in need of Your sovereign love, for Your power exceeds all human power, Your authority exceeds all human authority, and Your government will stand when all human governments have passed into history.

We come to You in confession of our weakness and sin, for we have sought too often our own power. We have fought too selfishly for our own glory. We have clung too tightly to our desires and our factions and our plans.

We come to You seeking the strength to repent. Turn us to Your wisdom instead of our own. Turn us to honesty instead of falsehood. Turn us to humility and service instead of pride and self-seeking.

We come to You for a blessing. Like Jacob, we cling to You and will not let go until You have blessed us, for You are good and gracious and loving, and in You, we put our trust.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING PASTOR ETHAN MAGNESS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DAVID P. ROE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ethan Magness, who delivered today's opening prayer.

Ethan is the senior pastor at First Christian Church in my hometown of