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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 14, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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.

104TH PENNSYLVANIA FARM SHOW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, recently, I had the pleasure of kicking off the new year by attending the 104th Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, the largest indoor agriculture exposition in the world.

The Pennsylvania Farm Show dates back to 1917, when the first event showcased 44 commercial exhibitors fea-

turing the latest in farm machinery and 440 competitive exhibitors. Since then, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has become the largest indoor agriculture exhibition in the world.

Dr. Milton Eisenhower, Penn State University president at the time and brother of President Dwight Eisenhower, dubbed the Pennsylvania Farm Show "always the greatest show on Earth" during his 1955 visit.

Thanks to the sustained dedication by Pennsylvania farmers and farm families, tens of thousands of volunteers, and generations of agribusiness owners, the Pennsylvania Farm Show continues to be the greatest show on Earth. Today, the Pennsylvania Farm Show has grown to approximately 6,000 animals, 12,000 exhibits, and 600,000 visitors throughout the week.

Each year, I host a congressional listening session at the farm show to hear directly from farmers, industry experts, and the agriculture advocates about their priorities as well as their concerns.

I want to say thank you to Representatives JOHN JOYCE, FRED KELLER, and DAN MEUSER, as well as Senator BOB CASEY and Pennsylvania Agriculture Secretary Russell Redding, for joining me for the 2020 congressional listening session at the farm show.

Even after more than a decade of serving on the House Agriculture Committee, there is no experience that replaces the value of meeting with our farmers, ranchers, and producers face-to-face.

With the right policies and good investments, rural America can be just as strong as the hardworking men and women who call it home. A robust rural America is not possible without a strong rural economy, and thanks to the passage of the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement and a soon-to-be-signed agreement with China, new market opportunities for agricultural exports are on the horizon.

New markets are the key to economic growth and stability for our farm families.

Stability also means having reliable safety net programs in place when times are particularly tough and when the weather is threatening our ability to feed ourselves. Over the years, technology has advanced and the economy has diversified, and keeping up with the demands of a new era is necessary to compete in the modern marketplace.

With connectivity, broadband, and, specifically, 5G, rural businesses will be better equipped to compete. Connectivity also expands opportunities for the next generation in rural America, helping signal to younger people that rural America is a great place to call home, to start a business, and to raise a family.

After spending several days at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, I am increasingly confident that the future of rural America is bright.

RECOGNIZING CHRISTINE KUSTELSKI

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Christine Kustelski, the Southside unit director of the Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota, for her recent induction into the Youth Intervention Hall of Fame. This prestigious honor, one that only 86 individuals have received over the last 21 years, is given to members of our community who go above and beyond just working with our Nation's youth.

Since 1997, Christine has worked in youth development at the Boys & Girls Club of Central Minnesota, serving nearly 1,200 K-12 youth. Christine assists a range of students, working with children living in foster care or with incarcerated parents or those who have experienced abuse, neglect, and severe poverty.

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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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I thank Christine for meeting the needs of the youth in our community and for her service to others in need. I congratulate her on earning her place in the Youth Intervention Hall of Fame.

RECOGNIZING THE ANOKA COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES STAFF

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Human Services staff in Anoka County, Minnesota, for receiving the Local Government Innovation Award. These Innovation Awards highlight counties, cities, townships, and schools that have found ways to make a bigger impact in their communities.

Anoka County developed a new apprenticeship program called the Empowers Program. This volunteer initiative provides employment and training opportunities to the workforce of tomorrow.

In a nation struggling with workforce shortages and a growing skills gap, this program helps young people identify what they want to do with their career. The program assists the participants with job searches, individual career planning, paid training, and achieving technical and occupational certificates. The program can even assist with basic needs like a bus pass, clothing for work, or books for school.

Anoka County deserves to be recognized for its efforts to prepare our young people to join the workforce. With 7 million open jobs in this country, our young people need to be equipped to join our growing economy.

I congratulate Anoka County.

RECOGNIZING ELK RIVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT'S EXCELLENCE IN TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Elk River Area School District. As we closed out 2019, Elk River received an award for the district's efforts to lead in educational approaches involving technology. Sourcewell Technology's annual Impact Education Conference named technology specialists and leaders from the Elk River Area School District as the 2019 Technology Team of the Year.

Elk River earned this prestigious award because of the work the district's technology team undertook to expand the services they provide to their students. Elk River now provides on-demand courses for teachers as well as online resources and training for students and families. In total, the Elk River Area School District has implemented e-learning options that are now available for nearly 14,000 students.

We are fortunate for such incredible educators dedicated to innovating for their learners. I congratulate all the educators and administrators at Elk River Area School District for winning this well-deserved award.

RECOGNIZING RIVERS OF HOPE, NEIGHBORHOOD HEROES HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rivers of Hope, a

community-coordinated response to domestic violence.

In the summer of 1989, a group of neighbors concerned about an increase in domestic violence banded together to create Rivers of Hope to provide victims with care and support from their community.

Today, Rivers of Hope has expanded its scope of service, offering legal advocacy, education, support groups, referrals, and a 24/7 free and confidential crisis line for victims of domestic violence. The organization also operates a youth program and a criminal justice intervention program.

In addition, Rivers of Hope has grown beyond the neighbors who founded the organization to now include corporate professionals, business leaders, public servants, public servants from Wright and Sherburne Counties, and other community leaders.

I thank everyone who offers their time and effort to Rivers of Hope, making it the vital resource for victims in our communities. We are grateful for their dedication to making the Sixth Congressional District a better place to live and a safe place for everyone.

LOST JOBS AT WHITE MESA URANIUM MILL AND THE LA SAL URANIUM MINE COMPLEX

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the hardworking Utahns in the uranium industry in San Juan County, and especially those who have recently lost their jobs at the White Mesa uranium mill and the La Sal uranium mine complex.

Unfortunately, foreign subsidization of uranium production has had a devastating impact on North American production and has affected the mill's operation; and, as a result, roughly 30 percent of the employees had to be let go at our Nation's last operating uranium mill.

In addition to producing critical minerals, this mill has provided families with good incomes and generated tax dollars to help the local infrastructure. In fact, this facility is the largest private employer in San Juan County.

Since my election to Congress, I have had the privilege to spend significant time in the rural parts of Utah, including San Juan County. I appreciate rural Utah's sense of community and desire to help their neighbors during a time of need.

Unlike the more urban parts of Utah with a business hiring on every corner, rural areas often have fewer economic opportunities. However, the hard-working and entrepreneurial spirit among the residents of San Juan County make me confident they will be successful in their fight through this difficult time and, ultimately, come out stronger for it.

Additionally, I am committed to creating new economic opportunities in

rural areas. Rural Utahns deserve the same quality of life that their urban friends have, including access to broadband, quality medical care, and good-paying jobs. I will continue to work in Congress to bring these vital services to rural Utah.

While it has been a difficult week for many in San Juan County, I know the community will be resilient and persevere.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF GEORGIA STATE REPRESENTATIVE JAY POWELL

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of Georgia State Representative Jay Powell, who passed away in late November at the age of 67.

At the time of his passing, Representative Powell had served in the Georgia General Assembly for 10 years and had dedicated his time in public service to helping the rural areas of our State. His colleagues remember him as a straightforward talker and remember that, if he said he was going to do something, he did it.

A testament to his honest character, during his tenure, he rose to be one of the most powerful members of the assembly as the chairman of the Rules Committee. There, he played a large part in deciding which bills came up for a vote.

One of his most important priorities included introducing a bill that would require small fees collected by the State, like police fines, to be spent exactly where taxpayers are told they would be spent.

Representative Powell is going to be deeply missed in Georgia and throughout rural Georgia. His family and friends will be in my thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time.

RECOGNIZING PETTY OFFICER 2ND CLASS NATHAN NEWBERG

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Petty Officer 2nd Class Nathan Newberg for being named USO Coast Guardsman of the Year for 2019.

Stationed in Savannah, Georgia, I am so proud that the USO recognized Officer Newberg for his brave efforts to rescue the crew of an overturned cargo ship off the coast of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

In early September, Officer Newberg responded to a 3 a.m. call about the *Golden Ray* cargo ship capsizing. In early September, he was subsequently lowered from a helicopter, crossed along the side of the ship, and descended inside to rescue the *Golden Ray*'s captain and a bar pilot. His effort, along with the rest of the Coast Guard, rescued all 24 of the ship's crew.

In addition to his work with the *Golden Ray*, he has helped evacuate individuals with health conditions from cruise ships, worked to recover coast-guardsmen's bodies that were missing