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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. DINGELL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 19, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL 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 4, 2021, 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 1:50 p.m.

VALUE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as the son of a civil engineer, I was raised with an understanding of the value of infrastructure that serves people and benefits communities. My commitment to infrastructure has spanned decades. As a young man, I put shovel to the road for the construction of highways and bridges; and now, today, I advocate for infrastructure improvements in Congress.

As we know all too well in rural Pennsylvania, infrastructure has real-life consequences for communities. At its core, improving roads, bridges, and other key infrastructure should be a commonsense, bipartisan priority. Failing infrastructure does not discriminate. A broken bridge can harm Democrats just as it can harm Republicans.

Unfortunately, the so-called infrastructure reform put forth by President Biden fails to take seriously the challenges that we are currently facing in Pennsylvania and around the entire country. In the rural district that I represent, we know the importance of true infrastructure. We need to make our roadways and bridges safer, we need to improve our transportation systems, and we desperately need to deploy reliable internet to those lacking access to broadband. This is what true infrastructure is. But, unfortunately, that is not the Biden plan.

Let's look at the facts. In President Biden's infrastructure plan, less than 6 percent would go to roads and bridges; less than 2 percent would go to waterways, locks, dams, ports, and airports; and less than 5 percent, unfortunately, would go to broadband.

With \$600 billion devoted to the Green New Deal, this has never been about infrastructure. In Pennsylvania, the extreme policies championed in the Biden plan will crush our vital manufacturing and energy industries. This plan prioritizes the progressive agenda over the needs of the American workers and small businesses.

In the name of infrastructure, Democrats want to kill jobs, raise taxes, burden families, and stunt our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, I ask a very simple question: Is it worth it?

As we seek to define infrastructure and consider improvements to our Nation's fundamental infrastructure needs, I urge all of my colleagues to

dispense with the political games. We need roads, bridges, and reliable internet. We do not need the Green New Deal. Stop calling this infrastructure. Stop hiding progressive policies in Trojan horses. Stop trying to trick the American people.

While I stand ready to work with the President and House Democrats on what is true infrastructure reform, this plan is further evidence that the Biden-Harris administration are more happy to push their radical agenda at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Instead of propelling these radical policies, this could be a good-faith opportunity to deliver results for the American people. If we work together, we can get this job done. From deploying rural broadband to sustaining our basic roads, we must bridge this divide.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEVEN KOPPERUD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of the great voices for American agriculture here in our Nation's Capital, Steven L. Kopperud.

His death this past year was sudden and a shock to all of us who knew him. Steve was always the same, from the first day I met him almost 25 years ago until the last time we talked. He was a great friend, one whom you could trust to shoot you straight. As are so many in the agriculture arena, he was a down-to-earth, great guy; the type you could pick up a conversation with as though you had just talked yesterday when, in fact, it could have been a year or more; the type who would always be there for you. And if it was a policy question, he always, always, had the facts. He believed in his work, and he was passionate about it.

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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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After growing up in Minneapolis and attending the University of Minnesota, Steve started his career in journalism, writing for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the San Diego Union-Tribune. He eventually became the Washington bureau chief for Feedstuffs, which further introduced him to the world of agriculture.

From there, he launched a long, distinguished career in advocacy, lobbying on all things animal, everything from food, livestock, poultry, trade, and animal welfare, to biotech, among countless other agricultural issues. He was a founder of the Animal Alliance Association, and eventually started his own firm to represent clients across the Nation's agriculture sector.

Steve played an instrumental role in the passage of every farm bill in the past 35 years, from his first in 1985 to his last in 2018. He could always be found in the Halls of Congress, the White House, or USDA, making the case for commonsense agriculture policies critical to our producers and American consumers. And by the fortuitous nature of events early on in his career, he became a key voice with great expertise in the animal welfare policy arena.

Steve leaves behind his wife, Judith, of more than 45 years, and many, many friends. The contributions he made to agriculture were numerous, leaving a great legacy of advocacy that has benefited American producers and has helped to feed the world. His was a life very well-lived, and American agriculture is that much better because of Steve Kopperud, and so is our country.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN JUSTICE

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay particular tribute to an individual who has been an institution in the Cape Fear region for decades, my friend and former colleague in the State legislature, Carolyn Justice.

Carolyn served five terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives, representing New Hanover and Pender Counties. Before her service in the State legislature, she served on Pender County's Board of Commissioners. She has also served as a trustee of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Pender Memorial Hospital, and as chair of the Lower Cape Fear River Program.

Now, I got to know Carolyn while serving in the State Senate. She was a co-chair of the State House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, while I was co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. So we got to know each other quite well as we went line by line of the State budget, making cuts to the programs under our purview.

The economic collapse of 2008 and 2009 had left the State budget in shambles, and it was our job to help balance it. These were not easy decisions, but, with Carolyn as a key partner, we made the budget numbers work while doing our best to fund the programs of most value to the citizens of the State.

Through her service and kindness to others, Carolyn Justice continues to leave an indelible mark on southeastern North Carolina. This is why it is so fitting that she was recently named by the Wilmington Star-News in March, which was Women's History Month 2021, as one of 106 women who have made the Port City area a better place.

I don't know of anyone who stands stronger for the Cape Fear region and the causes in which she believes. This is a well-deserved honor for a very distinguished public servant and my great friend and colleague.

CELEBRATING THE NOMINATION OF REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL BOYLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service, sacrifice, and recent nomination of one of my constituents, Rear Admiral Michael E. Boyle.

Admiral Boyle has served as director of Maritime Operations for the U.S. Pacific Fleet since June of 2020. Admiral Boyle was designated a naval aviator in January of 1990.

In his 30 years of dedicated service, he has held numerous positions throughout the United States Naval Command. Whether it was operational tours, like aboard the USS *Forrestal* in support of Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq, or aboard the USS *Saratoga* in support of Operation Provide Promise in Bosnia, Admiral Boyle has shown what leadership, fortitude, and duty look like in the United States Navy.

I commend the Secretary of Defense, General Lloyd Austin for his nomination of Rear Admiral Boyle to the rank of two-star flag officer, rear admiral, in the United States Navy. His work in keeping our Nation safe and securing American interests abroad have not gone unnoticed.

I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Michael Boyle for his service to this country and his steadfast duty in defense of our Constitution.

Congratulations, Admiral. Semper Fortis.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN JOCK

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Assistant Chief of Police John Jock of the Orange Park Police Department.

Over the past 25 years, Assistant Chief Jock has worked under three police chiefs, four town managers, and has become a valued member of the force in our community. Starting as a patrol officer for the OPPD back in 1996, he has earned promotions three times, achieving the rank of assistant police chief, and even receiving his master's degree in the process.

He graduated from the FDLE Florida Leadership Academy in 2011, and served

on the Clay County SWAT team for over a decade. Mr. Jock has been on the front lines of law enforcement for a quarter century and, in that time, has investigated and solved criminal cases, provided disaster training and communication, and has been a valued community leader.

As a citizen of Orange Park for the last 22 years, Assistant Chief Jock entered retirement earlier this month after 25 years of service. As the wife of a fellow SWAT team member, I want to wish him and his family a happy, safe, and productive retirement.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK ELAM

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and service of Captain Mark Elam of the Putnam County Department of Corrections.

Captain Elam served in the Putnam County Sheriff's Office for nearly 20 years and, in that time, proved himself to be a hardworking servant.

Before joining the sheriff's office, Mark served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps. But the role that he excelled at the most was as a family man. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Lachrisha, for 15 years and a father to two children. Before Captain Elam's death last week, Mark and his wife were in the process of adopting five siblings.

He had a servant's heart and so much compassion to give. His loss leaves a hole in the Putnam County law enforcement community, but his memory will live on in the work and good deeds he did in life.

I want to extend my condolences to his wife, children, and the entire Putnam County Sheriff's Office in their enormous loss.

God bless Captain Elam and his family.

You've got the watch.

□ 1215

HONORING GILCHRIST COUNTY SHERIFF'S SERGEANT NOEL RAMIREZ AND DEPUTY TAYLOR LINDSEY

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Gilchrist County Sheriff's Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey who were both gunned down in the line of duty 3 years ago today.

On April 19, 2018, Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey were eating lunch at a restaurant in Trenton, Florida, when a coward fired through a window and killed both officers in the line of duty. That man—whose name does not deserve to be mentioned—killed those two officers, consumed by a radical hate for law enforcement. That same hate for law enforcement that we saw then I continue to see today.

Now more than ever we need to publicly and boldly support our law enforcement officers.

Noel and Taylor's deaths remind us of the constant vigilance that an officer needs to have in order to return home safely to their families every night. Being an LEO is a difficult and often thankless job.