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No. 24

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BROWN of Maryland).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 7, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANTHONY G. BROWN 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 10, 2022, 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.

CONGRESS MUST END THE FENTANYL CRISIS

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, 64,000 Americans died from fentanyl and its analogs in a recent 12-month period. It is the leading cause of death in the United States for individuals aged 18 to 45. Fentanyl has killed more people aged 18 to 45 than car accidents, than suicide, than COVID. Again, it killed 64,000 Americans in a 12-month period.

I recently spoke to two parents who lost a child to fentanyl.

Congress must act.

What is fentanyl? Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs are synthetic opioids that have a real risk of abuse and dependence. It is an unusually dangerous and an unusually deadly drug, and many of the victims are not even aware they are taking it.

Where are the drugs coming from? This drug is often manufactured in high quantities in China and is pouring across our southern border. And it is getting worse.

Last year, fentanyl seizures across our southern border increased by over 1,000 percent. Border agents captured 588 pounds of this drug. To conceptualize that, that is enough to kill 133 million Americans.

I have been to the southern border, and I have spoken firsthand to the men and women of Border Protection about the increased drugs coming across our southern border.

We must secure our border. We cannot stand by and watch as Americans are killed by fentanyl and its analogs.

We should continue to be focused on limiting the flow of fentanyl coming into our country. We should be raising awareness of the lethal effects of fentanyl. We should be helping local law enforcement and our first responders work to address this crisis.

In 11 days, fentanyl analogs and related substances will no longer be a schedule I drug. The fentanyl analogs schedule I status expires on February 18, in 11 days.

Congress previously kicked the can down the road and temporarily extended fentanyl analogs as a schedule I drug last May, but that expires in 11 days.

If fentanyl analogs are not extended or made permanent soon, law enforcement officers will have a hand tied behind their back from stopping fentanyl from killing Americans.

Yet Speaker PELOSI continues to refuse to bring the HALT Act, critical

legislation, to this floor to make scheduling permanent. We need to make scheduling fentanyl analogs permanent.

I call upon my fellow Members of Congress to help us end the fentanyl crisis.

RUNAWAY INFLATION IS HURTING EVERY HOUSEHOLD IN AMERICA

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to once again address the crisis hurting every household in America: runaway inflation.

The January 12 Consumer Price Index report showed inflation has increased 7 percent over the last 12 months, the fastest increase since 1982.

Rural communities are being hit harder than anyone else. In my district, inflation has increased 8 percent over the past year. Americans are paying more for essentials everywhere, from the grocery store to the gas station, and working families are being hit the hardest.

Like many of my colleagues, I believe the primary driver of this inflation is unchecked government spending. Unfortunately, even though inflation has reached historic highs, this issue continues to be ignored by many of my Democrat colleagues.

Whether you agree with me or not, we owe it to the American people to identify the root cause and begin to address the problem. I have introduced legislation to do just that, and I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting efforts that put an end to this ongoing problem that harms every single American, especially those living paycheck to paycheck and trying to raise a family.

RECOGNIZING DEPUTY CHIEF DAN SZYKULSKI

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deputy Chief

□ 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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Dan Szykalski. In January, Dan retired as deputy chief of the Blaine Police Department.

Dan served with the Blaine Police Department for 38 years. During that time, he saw many changes in the city and his department.

Deputy Chief Szykalski had the respect and admiration of his fellow officers. Often described as a hard worker and team player, Dan was always there to lend a hand on emergency calls or bring in home-cooked meals for officers working on holidays.

Dan earned numerous awards during his career, including the Chief's Compassion Award and a Certificate of Recognition from the city of Blaine. I should note, however, that possibly my favorite thing about Dan was his reputation as the best hockey player in the station. He will certainly be missed at the annual Guns and Hoses hockey game. Maybe he will be able to return with an alumni exception.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dan for his service, and I congratulate him on his retirement.

RECOGNIZING DR. RICHARD LEE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dr. Richard Lee. Dr. Lee is retiring as executive director of the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center.

Dr. Lee has led the center for the past 6 years. In that time, Dr. Lee has been a champion for expanding mental health resources in central Minnesota. I have had the privilege to work with Dr. Lee and have been fortunate to visit the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center to see the great work they do.

Under Dr. Lee's leadership, the Central Minnesota Mental Health Center cultivated and expanded strong community partnerships with local counties, law enforcement, and healthcare agencies. Dr. Lee also helped develop and expand the Co-Responder Program that partners mental health professionals with law enforcement officers to respond to behavioral health calls.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Lee for the incredible impact he has had on expanding access and availability of mental health care in central Minnesota and wish him an enjoyable and well-deserved retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF GREGORY "BUTCH" BAKEBERG

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Gregory "Butch" Bakeberg, a constituent, a friend, and a leader in Minnesota's agriculture community.

Butch passed away last month at the age of 74, but his legacy and work for the Sixth District and the city of Waverly, Minnesota, will continue to have an impact.

Butch was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, but moved to Waverly where his family owned and operated Goldview Farm. Butch and his wife, Faye, were active in their community for decades, getting involved with the Wright County American Dairy Asso-

ciation and helping start the Wright County Breakfast on the Farm Committee. Butch and Faye were known to host countless agricultural-related events on their farm with the goal of educating fellow Minnesotans on dairy farming. They also host the occasional Sunday mass on the family farm as well.

Last year, I had an opportunity to visit Butch on his family's farm, and I am glad I did. Butch and Faye truly represent the best of Minnesota, and while we mourn the loss of a leader in our community, Butch's contribution to our community will live on for years to come.

REMEMBERING LORAL I. DELANEY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Loral I. Delaney. Loral I passed away on September 19, 2021, after battling breast cancer.

Loral I was a shooting-sports legend. In 1957, at the age of 19, Loral I competed in her first event, the Minnesota State Trap Shoot, which she won with a near-perfect score. Loral I would go on to win seven Grand American World Trapshooting Championships, five of them consecutively. Loral I remains the only woman to win more than two championships in a row and more than four in total.

Loral I not only loved to compete, but she had an incredible passion for animals, as well. She and her husband, Chuck, ran Armstrong Ranch Kennels in Ramsey, Minnesota, providing grooming and training for some of Minnesota's premier hunting dogs. Loral I also founded an event known as Game Fair, an annual event known and beloved by sportsmen and -women and hunting enthusiasts throughout Minnesota and beyond.

Loral I leaves a tremendous legacy behind her; she will be missed dearly. To Chuck and her family, we offer our sincere condolences.

HONORING PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

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

Mr. BUCSHON. Mr. Speaker, I grew up about 20 miles from Springfield, Illinois, and President Lincoln's boyhood home is in my congressional district in Spencer County, Indiana. President Lincoln's birthday is this Saturday, February 12, so I want to highlight some of his speeches and recognize the enduring importance of his words.

First is his farewell speech to Springfield delivered February 11, 1861: "My friends, no one, not in my situation, can appreciate my feeling of sadness at this parting. To this place, and the kindness of these people, I owe everything."

"Here I have lived a quarter of a century and have passed from a young to an old man. Here my children have been born and one is buried."

"I now leave, not knowing when, or whether ever, I may return, with a task

before me greater than that which rested upon Washington."

"Without the assistance of the Divine Being, who ever attended him, I cannot succeed."

"With that assistance, I cannot fail. Trusting in Him who can go with me, and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well."

"To His care commending you, as I hope in your prayers you will commend me, I bid you an affectionate farewell."

Notice the importance of faith to President Lincoln in his farewell speech to Springfield. I do believe the loss of faith amongst elected officials has been detrimental to our country. It seems that we go out of our way to eliminate any mention of faith in public life. This is a mistake.

Next, Mr. Speaker, President Lincoln's address at Independence Hall February 22, 1861, on George Washington's birthday: "I am filled with deep emotion at finding myself standing here, in this place, where were collected together the wisdom, the patriotism, the devotion to principle from which sprang the institutions under which we live."

"You have kindly suggested to me that in my hands is the task of restoring peace to the present distracted condition of the country. I can say in return, Sir, that all the political sentiments I entertain have been drawn, so far as I have been able to draw them, from the sentiments which originated and were given to the world from this hall."

"I have never had a feeling politically that did not spring from the sentiments embodied in the Declaration of Independence. I have often pondered over the dangers which were incurred by the men who assembled here and framed and adopted that Declaration of Independence."

"I have pondered over the toils that were endured by the officers and soldiers of the army who achieved that Independence."

"I have often inquired of myself, what great principle or idea it was that kept this Confederacy so long together."

"It was not the mere matter of the separation of the Colonies from the motherland; but that sentiment in the Declaration of Independence which gave liberty, not alone to the people of this country, but, I hope, to the world for all future time."

"It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight would be lifted from the shoulders of all men. This is a sentiment embodied in that Declaration of Independence."

"Now, my friends, can this country be saved upon that basis? If it can, I will consider myself one of the happiest men in the world, if I can help to save it. If it cannot be saved upon that principle, it will be truly awful."

"But, if this country cannot be saved without giving up that principle, I was about to say I would rather be assassinated on this spot than to surrender it."