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No. 99

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 7, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CLIFF BENTZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

KEVIN MCCARTHY,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, 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 THE STRASBURG HIGH SCHOOL WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD TEAM

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, in keeping with my office policy of giving a floor speech for every State high school champion in the Sixth District of Virginia, I rise to congratulate the Strasburg High School women's track and field team for winning the Class 2 State championship, the program's first State title since 1993.

Finishing with a total of 68 points, the Rams delivered strong performances needed to win. These talented athletes include Macy Smith, Claire Keefe, Paige Hiserman, Toni Rhodes, Megan Martin, Maddy Dofermire, Neila Coughenour, Willow Musterman, and Amanie Hogan.

Junior sprinter and jumper Macy placed in all five of her events, even winning a State title in the long jump with an impressive leap of 17 feet, 7½ inches.

Senior hurdler and jumper Maddy also placed in four events, winning second place in the high jump.

Taking home the State title in the 4 x 800-meter relay were Claire, Toni, Paige, and Megan, beating the runner-up by over 12 seconds.

Each one of these ladies serves as an inspiration not only to their peers but to the entire Sixth District, proving that hard work and dedication can yield tangible results.

Congratulations again to the Strasburg High School women's track and field team on this incredible accomplishment.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CROSS HIGH SCHOOL'S DIVISION II STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize North Cross High School men's lacrosse, tennis, and track and field teams for each winning their Division II State championships.

The men's lacrosse team secured its third consecutive title with an outstanding 15-6 final score, making this their fourth championship win in 5 years.

The lacrosse win was propelled by senior Joe Mason's six goals, as well as by the sticks of seniors Caleb Thompson and Ian Cann, each of whom added three goals to the tally.

Over on the tennis courts, the Raiders men's team captured its second State title since 2016 with a 5-4 victory.

The tennis team's historic performance was led by sophomore Henry

Lugar, who dominated the court with a 10-0 win in his championship singles match and finished the season with a perfect 20-0 record in singles matches.

Junior Alessandro Perin and Jacob Juneau won their doubles match by an outstanding 10-2 score.

The Raiders men's track and field team won their State championship with 93 points. Freshman Jace Rhodes won first place in the triple jump.

On the track, Rhodes was joined by senior Rhone Burton, junior Moritz Mittendorfer, and junior Xavier Mitchell in the 4 x 100-meter relay, taking the title with a sprint time of 43.97 seconds.

Congratulations to all these student athletes, parents, coaches, and staff on their incredible achievements. They are all champions and have proven that with hard work and dedication, anything can be accomplished.

IRS SUCCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, in the past year, you might have noticed a difference while doing your taxes.

If you called IRS with a question, you waited on the phone for maybe 5 minutes instead of 30 or more from years past.

If you got your tax refund in a reasonable amount of time, there is a difference. If you are one of the Americans who attempted to evade taxes and ended up paying your fair share, you can thank the Inflation Reduction Act for that.

This historic legislation has enabled the IRS to be better funded, better staffed, and better at getting hard-earned money back to the people.

My constituents have noticed. When we legislated \$80 billion over the next decade to modernize IRS, Republicans

□ 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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set out spreading disinformation and fear: agents coming out to get you.

They were wrong. They knew that was not the case, but they wanted to demonize IRS anyway. Instead, what happened? We saw improvements.

In one of the most immediate results from a bill I have ever seen, wait times are down to 4 minutes across the country. Tax returns are arriving without months-long delays.

In my own office, we had more than 250 cases open at any one time, trying to help constituents. Now that number is below 60.

Again, Republicans launched an attack on IRS funding during their manufactured debt ceiling crisis of the last few weeks.

Thankfully, their success against IRS was limited. They were able to claw back only a small portion of that funding that we set forward.

Still, their opposition is incomprehensible. Republicans say they don't like government, that government doesn't work. President Biden and congressional Democrats reveal that when we fund government properly, it does work.

I thank the IRS team for their hard work on behalf of my constituents and Americans all across this country.

A SCOURGE IN AMERICA

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, every year in this country, 43,000 people, 44,000 people—in one year, as high as 49,000 people—die of gun violence.

Every single day, we lose people in this country to gun violence. Mr. Speaker, 54 percent of that horrific number is gun violence suicide.

This week the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force held a hearing, and we had six, eight, nine folks testifying before us: folks who had survived mass shootings; folks whose family members lost their lives due to gun violence and suicide; and folks who had accidental shootings take place in their communities that harmed and took the lives of others.

When we asked for a committee room in this Capitol in order to host that testimony and to learn something more about it, guess what happened?

It was Monday, a fly-in day, when these committee rooms are not busy. There was no room in the House for that committee to be hosted, so we had to go to the Senate.

Committee chair after committee chair of the Republican Party, the majority party, denied us access to a committee room to simply hear the testimony of those who know something sad and tragic all too well about gun violence.

We had the benefit of the Senate giving us a small committee room where we were stuffed in: advocates, victims, researchers, professors, and others.

That should tell you all you need to know, America, about the shame of gun violence in our country and why we are so hampered in dealing with it.

Gun violence death is preventable. It is an extraordinary scourge here in

America. Yet, we are blocked by Republican majority leadership who won't even give us a room to be heard.

PROCLAMATION TO HONOR BRUCE SPITZENGENEL AND GRANTWORKS

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Mr. Bruce Spitzengel and GrantWorks:

Whereas, 48 years ago, Mr. Bruce Spitzengel started working as a city planner for Texas City and a year later became the assistant planning director for Pasadena, Texas; these positions led to the founding of a company in 1979 that would eventually become GrantWorks, benefiting State, county, and city governments with services to facilitate resilient infrastructure facilities, economic development, and single-family and multifamily affordable housing; and

Whereas, GrantWorks provides the knowledge of both State and Federal programs to address the primary needs of local governmental localities to serve their constituents with facilities and housing components to create a more resilient future for their communities; and

Whereas, Mr. Spitzengel and his lovely bride, Jody, utilized the principles learned through years of experience to expand vital services not offered by other companies assisting more than 450 cities and counties across the State and recognizing the need to expand services to address disaster recovery assistance beginning with Hurricane Rita and continuing with Hurricanes Dolly, Ike, and Harvey, as well as other Federally declared disasters to this day; and

Whereas, GrantWorks' record of service continues by assisting with the acquisition and management of financial awards for resilient infrastructure, having managed over \$8 billion of assistance for local government and provided administration services for over 5,000 single-family units for low- and moderate-income houses; and

Whereas, recognizing the needs of others, Bruce and the GrantWorks' culture of service to those they serve, the company matched 100 percent employee contribution for many years supporting food pantries, and has assisted thousands of households with relief for medical debt; and

Whereas, GrantWorks created an ongoing scholarship program in recognition of a valued employee in her name, Betty Collier, upon her passing, to the Texas Municipal Clerks Association, a professional organization dedicated to serving the demands of excellence in Texas' local government; and

Whereas, since Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Rockport, Texas, on August 25 of 2017, GrantWorks contributed an executive staff member to assist the county for over 1 year with emergency management support at no cost; and

Whereas, GrantWorks to this day ranks number one in serving more Texas cities and counties with the widest range of program offerings than any other company in Texas.

Now, therefore, I, RANDY WEBER, Representative of Texas' 14th District, do hereby proclaim an official recognition of Bruce Spitzengel and GrantWorks, Incorporated, for tremendous work serving the needs of Texas families and local government.

PROCLAMATION TO HONOR STEVE MATARO, SERVANT BUILDERS, AND DSW HOMES

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to honor Steve Mataro:

Whereas, just over 35 years ago, Mr. Mataro founded Servant Builders as a recovery mission geared toward helping young men with addiction learn a trade in construction while rebuilding relationships with families and communities; and

Whereas, Servant Builders provided job training and placement assistance for over 200 men, enabling a better future for their entire families; and

Whereas, Mr. Mataro utilized the same principles learned through Servant Builders in launching DSW Homes in southeast Texas in 2009 to assist rebuilding homes following Hurricane Rita, often providing job training and assistance to the very men whose homes were being rebuilt; and

Whereas, lessons learned via Servant Builders are displayed in often accommodating low-income and elderly homeowners, driving clients to construction appointments, and even temporarily paying their rents; and

Whereas, now operating in four states and the U.S. Virgin Islands, DSW Homes currently completes an average of 1,000 homes annually in disaster-hit regions with a record of 15 days from demolition to completion for a total of 12,000 homes; and

Whereas, since Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Rockport, Texas, on August 25, 2017, DSW Homes has rebuilt homes for over 3,000 families throughout five recovery zones.

Now, therefore, I, RANDY WEBER, as the Representative of Texas' 14th District, and MICHAEL CLOUD, Representative of Texas' 27th District, on June 7 of 2023, do hereby proclaim an official recognition of Steve Mataro for tremendous work with Servant Builders and DSW Homes.

COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I share with you and with the American people a conversation I recently had with a group of children's doctors because it has haunted me ever since.

These busy doctors who work at some of our Nation's finest pediatric hospitals and practices took the time to travel to D.C. because they wanted to