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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. MOORE of Utah).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 18, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BLAKE D. MOORE 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.

REMEMBERING JEROMY SULLIVAN

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of profound courage and vision: Jeromy Sullivan, the late chairman of the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe.

From his early years, Jeromy was molded by his surroundings, nurturing a love of the land and the water and their gifts.

His early experiences digging for clams or catching crab and salmon im-

bued him with a deep connection to his culture and to his environment. Besides being an experienced leader, he was still a relatively young man when we lost him last month.

I loved to see Jeromy's pride and enthusiasm for the progress being made by his Tribe. Once, he gave me a tour of the Tribe's new health facility, and it mattered to him that Tribal members could get care in a quality environment, that they had the respect and the dignity that all Americans deserve.

He was proud that not only was the facility first class, but rather that the care that people would receive would be first class as well.

Jeromy was also a passionate advocate for Tribal treaty rights. Jeromy saw his role as Tribal chairman to be one of not only advocating for today's fishermen or geoduck harvesters, he was a champion for the rights of future generations of Port Gamble's S'Klallam Tribal members.

I can't tell you how many conversations I had over the last 10 years about discussions with the Navy in which Jeromy was unbending in his belief that he had a responsibility to ensure that his people could enjoy the rights promised to them in their treaty.

Last year, I visited a new housing development the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe was undertaking, and Jeromy beamed as he explained that these weren't just investments in shelters; they were investments in families. He said: Think of what this will mean to our Tribal members.

Jeromy often told me that he prayed for the leaders of his Tribe and for the leaders of our country, that he asked for strength and wisdom, and Jeromy showed those every day.

To those who loved him most, Jeromy was a loving family man, survived by his wife, Toni; their children, Samantha and Jacob; and his brothers, Chad and Corey.

In the musical "Hamilton," they asked the question: What is a legacy?

Answering: It is planting seeds in a garden you will never get to see.

Well, I am saddened that Jeromy won't get to see the fruit of some of his projects. They will nourish the Tribe's members for generations. Indeed, Jeromy's legacy will live on, reminding us to protect what we love and to stand tall for our beliefs.

Jeromy Sullivan's memory will continue to guide his people and his spirit will endure in the lands and the waters that he loved, the waters that he healed, and the community he served so faithfully.

Mr. Speaker, the last thing Jeromy texted me were the words: "I miss you, my friend, and I hope we will connect soon." I miss him, too, and I will always treasure our friendship.

HONORING RICK TIFT

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Rick Tift, executive director of Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, who has dedicated his life to public service.

Rick is retiring after 45 years of service at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, 19 of those as executive director, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard's top civilian management position.

The executive director oversees internal processes and administrative processes and is the overall coordinator outside of direct maintenance issues.

Rick has acted as a constant for 19 years when commanding officers came and went, always advocating for the workforce, and acting as a liaison to the community.

Rick has lived in Bremerton since 1962, a graduate of Central Kitsap High, Olympic College, the University of Washington, and the University of Puget Sound.

He serves as a member of the city of Bremerton's Planning Commission, he was a former board member of St. Michael Medical Center, he was a board member and past president of Leadership Kitsap, and sits on the

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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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Chancellor's advisory board at the University of Washington Tacoma.

There are not enough words to express my gratitude to Rick for everything he has done for our community and the tremendous help he has been to me during my time in this office.

Rick is a fair, considerate, compassionate, and kind person who really cares about the community he lives and serves in. Rick has been instrumental in working with the community to find pathways for employment at the shipyard. He has been a fierce advocate for the shipyard, making sure elected officials, educational institutions, and the greater community understand the opportunities for employment within its workforce.

With the Federal Government being the largest employer in my district, I appreciate his efforts as we are all invested in making sure we have the next generation of workers and future leaders at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and IMF.

Those efforts really can't be understated. He has been a staunch advocate for infrastructure and needed improvements to the shipyard inside and outside of its gates, helping to bring elected officials at every level and Navy leadership together to find ways to make needed improvements.

That is only the tip of the iceberg as far as the positive impact Rick has made with his time.

You will never find a more dedicated, loyal, considerate man than Rick, and it has been an absolute pleasure to work with him.

Mr. Speaker, he will be dearly missed, and I wish him all the best in his next chapter as he moves off into retirement. We wish him well, and thank him for his friendship and partnership.

CONGRATULATING DR. LALIT VERMA ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Lalit Verma on his retirement from the University of Arkansas Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department.

As a proud alumnus of this department myself, it is my pleasure today to honor Dr. Verma for his distinguished career at the University of Arkansas and everywhere he has studied and taught.

He started in India and continued his academic career at Montana State University and the University of Nebraska. He spent time teaching in Bangkok, in South Dakota, and even made his way down to Louisiana where he spent time at LSU. Thankfully, he made it to Arkansas, where for 23 years, he has left his most significant mark on academia.

Dr. Verma has done an incredible job leading the department and has served

in various other organizations, such as ASABE.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Dr. Verma for his distinguished career and wish Dr. Verma and his wife Aruna well in their future endeavors and as they spend more time with their two grandchildren.

FOOD ANIMAL VETERINARIAN SHORTAGE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as a top-ranking State in livestock production, Arkansas is in need of food animal veterinarians like many other places around the country.

In 2022, 25 counties within my district applied for designated shortage area status. Of the 25 counties that applied, only 13 were awarded the status. Food animal veterinarians who practice in these areas are eligible to apply for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, or VMLRP.

Food animal veterinarians are on the decline, and this program is essential to encourage young Americans to consider practicing food animal veterinary.

With the 2018 Farm Bill set to expire in September of this year, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider the importance of the VMLRP Program in addressing the food animal veterinarian shortage that poses a concern to my constituents and many of my colleagues' constituents, and also it is critical to the food supply for our Nation.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BILL REYNOLDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. MAGAZINER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of the great Providence Journal columnist, Bill Reynolds.

Ask any Rhode Islander and they will tell you that Bill Reynolds was an institution of Rhode Island sports and journalism whose column was read by thousands across the State.

It was a tradition, a must-read, and families across Rhode Island, including mine, started their Saturday by reading his column, "For What It's Worth," which included his latest not only on sports, but also pop culture, politics, movies, and more.

He was a columnist at the Journal for almost 40 years, a New York Times best-selling author, and a Hall of Fame Brown University basketball player, who still played pickup games well into his 60s, and was known for his jump shot, which earned him the nickname "Shooter."

Bill was one of the best sportswriters in Rhode Island history, who mentored an entire generation of aspiring writers and athletes. There will never be another like him. May he rest in peace.

CELEBRATING RHODE ISLAND SPECIAL OLYMPIC ATHLETE, BRIAN JOHNSON

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of

Rhode Island's Special Olympic athlete, Brian Johnson of East Greenwich.

Brian made Rhode Island proud by bringing home the gold for bocce at the Special Olympics World Games in Berlin last month.

He and his teammate, David Young, defeated the team from Paraguay 10-3 to win the unified doubles gold. To top it off, Brian also won the silver medal in the singles division.

Brian has competed in the Special Olympics for 14 years, participating in track and field, basketball, bocce, bowling, cycling, flag football, and volleyball. He has been an advocate for inclusion and has shared the impact of his Special Olympics experiences with students at his school.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Brian for his incredible accomplishment. He has done himself and all of Rhode Island proud.

CELEBRATING JONATHAN STONE ON HIS RETIREMENT

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Jonathan Stone, who recently retired as executive director of Save the Bay Rhode Island after 14 years of service.

Founded in 1970, Save the Bay is Rhode Island's leading organization for advocacy, education, and policy to safeguard the Narragansett Bay and its tributaries.

Jonathan led vital work to restore Rhode Island's coastlines and waterways, protect marine life, help our State adapt to climate change, and delivered major legislative victories for environmental conservation.

He championed the Cesspool Phase-out law of 2015 to remove sewage from public waterways and the creation of the Ocean State Climate Adaptation and Resilience fund to protect vulnerable infrastructure and coastal areas from sea level rise in extreme weather.

At the same time, Jonathan strengthened Save the Bay's environmental education programs, which have introduced hundreds of thousands of students to the bay, and launched construction of a new exploration center and aquarium, which will open this fall.

Rhode Islanders are indebted to Jonathan for his commitment to our State and the waterways that make it so special, but we must remember, as Jonathan Stone reminded us when he announced his retirement, that the saving of Narragansett Bay is not complete.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to doing my part in Congress and using Jon Stone's leadership as an example.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA'S SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATH

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to stress STEM education in our country, I would like to recognize the North Carolina School of Science and Math.