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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. LANGWORTHY).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NICHOLAS A. LANGWORTHY 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.

HONORING JOYCE HAMLETT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. And still I rise, Mr. Speaker, and I rise today for a very special occasion. It is special to me because I have the opportunity today to acknowledge the friendship that I have had for some 15 years with a member of this august body but not as a Member of Congress.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, to pay honor and homage to a great and noble American, a person who has made a difference in

my life. This great and noble American works here on the floor of the House of Representatives. I can tell you that she has done her job well. While she is a comely, courtly, stately lady, she is a person who is well respected. She is well respected because her job as Assistant Sergeant at Arms requires her to sometimes approach us when we are out of order.

I must tell you, Mr. Speaker, I am a recidivist, a repeat offender. On more than one occasion, she has had to bring me to order. I remember the first time when I was on my phone, and she came over to me and kindly asked that I put my phone away. There was a second time, and she kindly came over to me and said, "You know better," and I did.

I always respected her, and I believe all the Members respect her for one principal reason, that reason being, Mr. Speaker, of all the people in Washington, D.C., there are very few who come to work and do not associate themselves closely with one party or another.

Now, I don't know what her political affiliation is, but I think I speak for a good many people. Let's just say I speak for myself and everybody who agrees with me. A good many people believe that she could be a member of either party because of the way she has treated her job. She has been exceedingly fair at all times. I believe that she truly deserves the position that she has as the first African-American woman to be the Assistant Sergeant at Arms, and that makes her also the only.

She has done her job well. My prognostication is this: While she may be the first, because of the way she has conducted herself, she will not be the last.

I would add this, as I come to my close, Mr. Speaker: There are times when you feel good about what you are doing, yet you are saddened because you know that something is about to

happen that will, at some point, cause you to lose contact with a friend. I see her on a daily basis when I am here. Knowing that she is leaving does sadden me, but knowing that she has set a record for others to follow makes my heart warm.

I would say to her, you truly have come a long way from the watermelon patch, the tobacco fields, and Broadway, North Carolina. You have come a long way.

No one could have prognosticated at your birth that you would sit in that seat and hold this position, but you are a God-fearing person, and you have said to me that you believe that it was destiny.

I am proud that you have fulfilled your destiny here, but there are still greater things for you to do. I want to keep in touch with you, and I want to be a part of them to the extent that I can.

I want you to know that we appreciate the great job that you have done. You have served your country well.

You have earned the title the Honorable Joyce Hamlett, the first but not the last African American to hold the position of Assistant Sergeant at Arms.

God bless you, and thank you. I have a few special gifts that I will present to you, and I look forward to continuing to serve you in other ways.

REQUIRING ALL VEHICLES TO HAVE AM RADIO

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, AM radio has been an integral part of American history. From FDR's "Fire-side Chats" to the Emergency Alert System, the importance of this form of media, both culturally and functionally, cannot be overstated.

□ 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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Forty-one percent of Arkansans live in rural counties, and of those, only 60 percent have access to standard broadband internet. Many of these individuals have long and often hazardous commutes to work. Along many of the beautiful back roads of my district, cell service is oftentimes nonexistent or spotty at best.

I was glad to cosponsor, along with my friend Representative JOSH GOTTHEIMER, bipartisan legislation, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2023, that will require all new motor vehicles to have access to AM radio in an attempt to put the safety of Americans first.

This access has and will continue to save lives during emergencies, improve lives during travel, and support hard-working Americans all over the Nation.

REMEMBERING MARY MAE FISHER

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Mary Mae Fisher, who passed away on Saturday.

Mary was an active member of the Dardanelle Rotary Club and Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce, and she was a dedicated community leader in both Dardanelle and Danville, Arkansas.

For over 50 years, Mary was the editor and publisher of the Yell County RECORD and the Dardanelle Post Dispatch. Mary had a heart for community service, and her mark on the Fourth District will not be soon forgotten.

My prayers go out to her husband, David Fisher, and all Arkansans mourning this loss.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MARK LOWERY

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I now invite two of my colleagues from Arkansas, Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. WOMACK, to join me.

We are here today and rise to honor the life of former State legislator and Arkansas Treasurer Mark Lowery. A Maumelle native, Mark was a devoted public servant. He served as editor of the Maumelle Monitor and the Sherwood Voice and taught communications at the University of Central Arkansas and Henderson State University.

In 2013, Mark began his nearly 10-year career as a State legislator, serving Arkansas's 39th District, where I had the pleasure of serving alongside him. Although his time as State treasurer was short, he was passionate about serving our State.

On behalf of the Arkansas delegation, I want to express our deepest condolences to his family, friends, and staff during this time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WOMACK).

Mr. WOMACK. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of an incredible leader and a dedicated public servant, who we lost yesterday.

Mark Lowery committed much of his life to serving Arkansans as an elected official, educator, and journalist.

During his time as State representative for 10 years, he had Arkansas youth and families top of mind. He brought significant reforms to the education system and fought hard for fairness in elections. Most recently, he was elected the Arkansas State treasurer. Although Mark will be deeply missed, his legacy lives on.

My prayers are with Mark's family and friends as they navigate this incredibly sad and difficult time. I offer them my sincere condolences.

My hope is that we can all find solace in knowing Arkansas is better off because of Mark Lowery's dedicated work for the people of Arkansas.

CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 9981

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Executive Order No. 9981, which desegregated the U.S. Armed Forces.

It was in my home State of Alabama—I should say, “our home State of Alabama”—in 1941 that 1,000 brave Black men trained at the great Tuskegee University to become the first Black pilots in U.S. history. They challenged the status quo by showing White pilots and U.S. military leadership that they were more than qualified to defend the United States in a combat role.

Segregation in the military finally ended on July 26, 1948, with President Truman's Executive Order No. 9981, but progress has been slow, Mr. Speaker. It took another 40 years before Colin Powell made history and became the first Black Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Furthermore, it was just 2 years ago when Lloyd Austin was confirmed as the very first Black Secretary of Defense in our Nation's history.

The battle to end discrimination in the military is one that we are still fighting today. Just this month, House Republicans voted to strip diversity, equity, and inclusion programs from the Armed Forces, undermining decades of strides toward racial equality.

That is why, yesterday, I joined Congresswoman MARILYN STRICKLAND in introducing a bill to finally codify non-discrimination in the military. As our servicemembers risk their lives daily to protect our country, the least we can do is to protect them from discrimination.

I am immensely proud to honor the enormous contributions of the Tuskegee Airmen today. We must never forget the precious gift of freedom that is preserved because of their dedication and courage.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MONSIGNOR DINO LORENZETTI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate the extraordinary life of Monsignor Dino Lorenzetti.

Monsignor Dino Lorenzetti, the eldest priest of the Buffalo Catholic Diocese, whose priesthood spanned 70 years and at least a dozen parishes and who headed the Office of Family Life for 20 years, died July 12, 2023, just 11 days short of his 102nd birthday.

In the monsignor's powerful voice, he would famously start each Mass he celebrated with: “Good morning, all you beautiful people of faith. You are loved.”

□ 1015

Dino served an incredible 70-year priesthood and undoubtedly impacted the lives of thousands of people across western New York with his warmth, his enthusiasm, and his upbeat personality.

When you met him, you immediately realized you had just been in the presence of a very special and holy person.

Monsignor Lorenzetti co-officiated my wife, Erin, and my wedding, as well as officiating my mother-in-law and father-in-law's wedding, and he baptized all their children. Many, many western New York families can say the same thing across multiple generations.

Dino Lorenzetti served as a priest under 9 different Popes and 10 Bishops of Buffalo during his lifetime. He was born in Buffalo to Italian immigrants.

Dino Lorenzetti's life of service and faith began with courage and dedication. As a young man he answered the call of duty during World War II, serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Africa and Italy from 1941 to 1945. His bravery and commitment during those challenging times foreshadowed the depth of character that would define his entire life.

Monsignor Lorenzetti was a longtime pastor of Our Lady of Sacred Heart church in Orchard Park. He led efforts to purchase a former West Seneca school building to establish the parish school. It thrived to rank among the largest grade schools in the entire diocese.

His influence extended globally when Pope Paul VI appointed him as a spiritual adviser to the National Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds. In 1978, he was honored to address the World Conference of Physicians in India alongside Mother Teresa where they both received prestigious awards.

Until shortly before his passing, he faithfully celebrated weekly masses at St. John the Baptist Church in Kenmore and St. Martha's in Depew.

In memory of Monsignor Lorenzetti, we celebrate a life well-lived, a life of profound service, and a life that will forever shine as an example of God's love.

May he rest in eternal peace knowing that his impact will continue to touch hearts and transform lives for generations to come.