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No. 162

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 3, 2023.

I hereby appoint Honorable LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMER 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.

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, this morning, 40 million Americans will begin their day without access to broadband internet. These high-speed broadband connections, which were once a luxury, have now become essential tools for students, businessowners, farmers, and patients.

Last year, historic BEAD funding was disbursed to the States. Today, it

is critical that these funds are used efficiently, not to gold-plate the infrastructure in our cities, but to finally connect our rural communities to fast, reliable, high-speed internet.

Recently, I was proud to introduce the 5G SALE Act to require the FCC to release previously auctioned spectrum in order to expand access to 5G internet for communities across central and western Pennsylvania.

Bridging the digital divide has never been more important as we fight to ensure that our students can learn from home, that small businesses can operate from home, and that patients can heal from home.

ENACTING REPUBLICANS' COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, in the past 10 months since retaking the majority, House Republicans have fought to enact our Commitment to America, working each day to forge an economy that is strong, to build a nation that is safe, to create a future that is built on freedom, and to once again have a government that is accountable to the American people.

We fought to reopen the people's House. We passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, 225–204, because Americans are paying too high a price for gas. We passed H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act, 219–213, because President Biden's border crisis has made each and every State a border State. We passed H.R. 5, the Parents Bill of Rights Act, 213–208, because parents deserve to be involved in their children's education.

These legislative victories have only been possible because House Republicans have remained united and willing to stand up to President Biden's radical agenda. It must be a top priority to fight President Biden's out-of-control spending, his Green New Deal initiatives, and his threats to strip away our constitutional rights.

Madam Speaker, it is time for House Republicans to renew our commitment

to the American people and to our shared conservative values. The work that is still ahead is too great to waste any additional time.

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING IS SYMBOL OF DISRESPECT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise, a proud, liberated Democrat in the spirit of Shirley Chisholm, unbought, unbossed, and unafraid—unafraid to say that the Senate of the United States of America cares more about what they wear to work than the building they work in.

There was a recent kerfuffle about the dress code in the Senate. As a result, some 40 Senators—in fact, about 46—signed a letter addressing this newly installed dress code. I won't read it in its entirety because time doesn't permit, but here is what it says in one paragraph: "Allowing casual clothing on the Senate floor disrespects the institution we serve and the American families we represent."

No disrespect, Senators, but I believe allowing Richard Russell's name to stay on the Russell Senate Office Building disrespects the people you serve and disrespects this country. The Richard Russell Senate Office Building is a symbol of racism. It is a symbol of disrespect for the American people, and it certainly disrespects people of African ancestry because Richard Russell was a racist and a bigot.

Richard Russell was the coauthor of the "Southern Manifesto." Richard Russell fought antilynching legislation. Richard Russell's name should not be on a building paid for with taxpayer dollars.

It is time for you to take the same amount of time that you took to reform your dress code and reform the name that is on the Richard Russell

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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Senate Office Building. It is easy to do. Just let it revert back to the name it had before it became the Russell Senate Office Building. Let it become the Old Senate Office Building.

If you need more time, take an infinitum and decide the name that you most prefer. I have no name to recommend. I only recommend that you take Russell's name off. It took less than 2 weeks to revert back to the old dress code. It has been more than 50 years that Richard Russell's name has been on this building.

Have you no shame, Senators? Do you not respect the people of African ancestry who go in and out of this building? I refuse to enter the Richard Russell Senate Office Building. I am a one-person protest. I refuse to disrespect myself by entering a building named after a bigot and racist who authored the "Southern Manifesto" and fought antilynching legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

CONGRATULATING JAMES SIMMONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate James Simmons, a dedicated construction teacher at North Scott High School in Eldridge, Iowa, who will receive the Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize for Teaching Excellence. This prestigious national recognition awards Mr. Simmons with a \$50,000 grant for his school's skilled trades program.

Teachers, students, and the North Scott principal have been working together to surprise Mr. Simmons today with his award by orchestrating a surprise celebration at his school, held outdoors by the tiny homes his students tirelessly built.

The Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Prize spotlights the exceptional yet often overlooked contributions of high school skilled trades teachers. This year, the program saw a record number of applicants, with over 1,000 teachers from all 50 States competing in the rigorous selection process.

We are immensely proud of Mr. Simmons. I congratulate him on this well-deserved honor.

HONORING CINDY MONTANEZ

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a true champion of the San Fernando Valley, a trailblazer, a leader, "y una de las nuestras," "and one of ours," the Honorable Cindy Montanez from the city of San Fernando.

Cindy and I have had the privilege of representing the northeast San Fernando Valley for the past 27 years. Cindy is a strong, unwavering community leader who, throughout her years of public service, has made sure that the voices of the people of the valley are heard and that they have a seat at the table.

Cindy has lived a quintessential American immigrant story, just like the monarch butterfly. They are bicultural and bring beauty everywhere they go.

She is the proud daughter of Miguel and Margarita Montanez, immigrants from Veracruz and Chihuahua, Mexico. The Montanezes came to the city of San Fernando, where Cindy and her five siblings were born and raised. Together, her family pursued the American Dream, a dream that includes giving back to the community and the country that has given us so much.

Cindy's activism began in 1993, as she pushed to establish the Chicano studies department at the University of California, Los Angeles by participating in a 14-day hunger strike.

At the age of 25, she won a seat on the San Fernando City Council, and 2 years later, she became the mayor of that city. Her exceptional leadership extends to the California State Legislature, where Cindy was the youngest woman elected to the California State Assembly at the age of 28 at that time. At the age of 30, she became the first Latina to chair the powerful assembly rules committee.

She fought for workers' protections, consumer rights, and healthcare access. Out of these accomplishments, what Cindy is best known for is her environmental work.

She continued her environmental activism to become the CEO of TreePeople, one of the largest environmental organizations in all of southern California. With over 3 million volunteers, they planted hundreds of thousands of trees, from San Fernando to Huntington Park.

In 2020, she was called back to her role in public service. She returned home to serve as a councilmember for the city of San Fernando.

Cindy is a titan who has worked tirelessly for her community. It is an honor to stand before you today to tell Cindy Montanez' story. I am not the only one highlighting her and her accomplishments. Last month, the city of San Fernando and the city of Los Angeles voted to rename Pacoima Wash Natural Park, which is shared by both cities, to Cindy Montanez Natural Park.

On August 28, the California State Legislature declared January 19 as Cindy Montanez Day.

These distinctions are well deserved, built on years of tireless service.

I just saw Cindy when I had the privilege to join our community in a celebration to rename Cindy Montanez Natural Park. Cindy was surrounded by dozens and dozens of community mem-

bers, full of love and prayer. It was a beautiful tribute to a hero in our community. For all of this and more, I honor my friend and my "hermana," "sister," Cindy Montanez.

Every time I see a monarch butterfly, I will think of the impact she has had, from the tree-lined streets of San Fernando to the committee rooms of Sacramento and all across our great State of California.

I had the pleasure of meeting Cindy Montanez when she was running for city council 28 years ago. I remember her coming into my office and saying some of her supporters had abandoned her, and I listened to what she had to say. I stood up and said: "I will support you. What I see in you is someone who is running for the right reasons. You care about the community." She said thank you. That is where she launched her career in 1995.

Sometimes in life we meet people and never know where our journeys are going to go, but I am so honored to have called Cindy Montanez my colleague and friend. I am so honored to be able to witness one of the first people who got elected to the State legislature out of our community of the San Fernando Valley who could speak to every constituent both in Spanish and in English. That had never happened before in our community, even though our community of northeast San Fernando Valley was over 75 percent Latino by population, parents like Cindy's parents and my parents who came from Mexico to make a better life for the next generation and the next.

Once again, it is my honor to speak before all of you in this beautiful House about an amazing, beautiful person, Cindy Montanez.

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HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF JACK TRICE

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

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Jack Trice—Iowa State University's first African-American athlete, and the namesake of the college football stadium in Ames, Iowa—he is an inspiration.

Trice enrolled at Iowa State University with the desire to play football and graduate with a degree in animal husbandry and to help and support farmers.

Tragically, 100 years ago, on October 8, 1923, Trice passed away at just 21 years old after sustaining severe injuries during a game.

While his life was cut short, his legacy prevailed. In 1997, Iowa State University renamed their college football stadium the Jack Trice Stadium, and it remains the only major stadium in college football that is named after an African American.

Today, Iowa State University supports thousands of students through