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No. 201

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

December 6, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT FRANKLIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

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.

THANKING INDIANOLA ROTARY CLUB

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Indianola Rotary Club for giving Indianola third graders over 5,280 dictionaries since its first year in 2003.

The Indianola Rotary supports youth leadership and literacy for children and adults. With their literacy focus, they have been able to support and inspire

children in our community. I thank Indianola Rotary Club members for the time and effort they have donated to their community.

CONGRATULATING AARON BARTHOLMEY ON HIS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Aaron Bartholmey on the newly announced Guinness World Record for his pencil collection.

In July of 2023, the Colfax Historical Society helped to certify the tally of his record-breaking collection of 69,255 pencils with assistance from the American Pencil Collectors Society. These wooden advertising pencils are mostly from local businesses, and one is recorded as over 100 years old.

His hobby began as a child, after going to a flea market with his grandfather, and it now has grown into a world record and a passion for history and local memorabilia.

Congratulations to Aaron Bartholmey on his Guinness World Record, and best of luck in finding his next pencil.

RECOGNIZING KELBY TELANDER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelby Telander for his bravery and resilience.

As a toddler, Kelby Telander struggled with hearing loss and underwent many surgeries, including a life-changing cochlear implant surgery at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. While a patient, he was selected to be kid captain at the University of Iowa football game.

As many University of Iowa fans know, before games at Kinnick Stadium, a patient from the Stead Family Children's Hospital is chosen as kid captain to lead the University of Iowa football team onto the field. For Kelby, this was an impressionable experience.

I am proud to recognize that over a decade later, Kelby Telander, a former kid captain and patient at Stead Family Children's Hospital has joined the

University of Iowa football team as a linebacker. Kelby is number 25 and recently saw his first career action in the Hawkeyes' 41-10 win against West Michigan.

I am proud of Kelby Telander for not only joining the powerhouse Hawkeye football team but for his bravery and resilience. Congratulations, and Go Hawks.

HONORING BRITT ORTIZ' CAREER

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my friend Britt A. Ortiz and congratulate Britt on his retirement from a long, impressive career in higher education.

The son of Carmen and Arturo Ortiz, Britt grew up in Old Town Goleta, California. His mother, Carmen, was an assembly line worker for a manufacturing plant and later became a floor manager. His father, Arturo, is an electrician.

Britt attended public schools and graduated from Dos Pueblos High School in 1979. He went on to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara as a first-generation college student.

I know his journey well. Though I grew up many miles south of him in the San Fernando Valley, I, too, attended public schools, defying low expectations from my teachers, counselors, and others. Just like other Latino students like myself and Britt, we went on to be first-generation students at UC, Santa Barbara.

With dedication, grit, and hard work, Britt earned his bachelor's degree in 1985 with a double major in sociology and psychology. Britt went on to receive his master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies at the University of California, Northridge.

□ 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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His first full-time job after college was as an outreach counselor for a UCSB partnership program that provided tutoring at junior high and high schools in Goleta and Santa Barbara. This kicked off a long career dedicated to helping students achieve their educational goals.

Seeing a need for dedicated and qualified educators and counselors in the San Fernando Valley, Britt used his acquired skills to motivate generations of Latino and Latina engineers and computer science students. His leadership set the gold standard for opening doors to traditionally underserved students.

He planned hundreds of bilingual financial aid workshops and organized college resource fairs. He partnered with groups such as the United Way to make these things happen.

During 2 years of work with CSUN's minority education program, Mr. Ortiz and the MEP team brought in the largest freshman class of minority engineering and computer science majors in the history of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Northridge.

After mastering his skills in the San Fernando Valley, he returned to UC, Santa Barbara and led the UC system's largest and oldest precollege academic preparation program. His work helped prepare first-generation, low-income, and underserved students and their families for higher education.

Over the course of his career, he also worked to get \$4.5 million in grants and funding for various agencies, institutions, and early academic outreach programs that helped students across the State of California succeed and achieve their dreams.

He has done all of this work and more so that students who were often discouraged and overlooked had the support, encouragement, and opportunity they needed to chase after and achieve their dreams regardless of the circumstances they were faced with or what was thrown at them.

I thank Britt Ortiz for all that he has done during his 35-year career. He showed kids what is possible. He gave them the tools they needed to learn. He helped them achieve their full potential, and he helped make their dreams come true.

What makes Britt's career so special is that as a young boy, he was discouraged from going on to college, but he defied those negative thoughts and actions against him by proving to himself—not to anybody else, but to himself—that if he put his best foot forward, if he always tried his best, if he always gave it his best, he could achieve anything.

That is what is amazing about this great country, that no matter who you are, no matter what language you start with, no matter what it is that you are faced with, if you are focused and you take advantage of all the opportunities that are here for you in this great country, you can and will make it.

What is sad is all along the way some people may not believe in you. They may try to discourage you and actually get in your way. Some people may even try to get you thrown out of your school or out of your classroom or what have you for things you have never done.

I say this because I have witnessed these things with my own eyes, but it takes people like Britt Ortiz to prove to young people that those are just lies, and they can be overcome. That is why today I honor Britt Ortiz for his 35-year career of helping young people overcome these challenges and to live their dreams.

NOVEMBER 22 RECOGNIZED AS KIMCHI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Kimchi Day. Kimchi is a staple Korean banchan, or side dish, consisting of fermented cabbage and other vegetables.

What was once limited to Korean families' tables is now a culinary icon that reflects the growing Korean cultural influence in the United States since the first Korean immigrants arrived more than a century ago.

I am proud to be joined by many Korean Americans from all across the country in the gallery today to celebrate kimchi and the larger contributions that the Korean-American community have made here in the United States.

Later this afternoon, Members and those listening are invited to come to the Cannon Caucus Room at 2 p.m. as we celebrate Kimchi Day with our Korean-American community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Korean-American colleagues—there are four of us serving in Congress: ANDY KIM, YOUNG KIM, MICHELLE STEEL, and MARILYN STRICKLAND—who have been instrumental in working with me in a bipartisan way to introduce this Korean Kimchi Day resolution to make November 22 as Kimchi Day. I thank my colleagues and those who signed on to that resolution.

Lastly, I thank everybody for loving kimchi. "Kimchi mah-nee saranghae joosaeyo," "Please love kimchi a lot."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

CELEBRATING HOMEGOING OF LIEUTENANT FRED BREWER, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, there are more than 80,000 American military personnel who remain unaccounted for from previous conflicts around the world. Their families, nonprofit organizations, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency continue to fight tirelessly every day to bring these patriots home and to give them the dignified memorials they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the homecoming of one of these fallen heroes, Second Lieutenant Fred Lorenzo Brewer, Jr., who after nearly 80 years has returned home to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Born on August 4, 1921, Lieutenant Brewer was raised in Charlotte's historic Brooklyn neighborhood where his family attended the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.

After graduating from Shaw University in Raleigh, the segregated South's first Black college, Lieutenant Brewer was commissioned by the United States Air Force and entered the uniformed service in November of 1942.

He was soon stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, and he joined the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. Completely segregated from their White peers, he was one of the nearly 1,000 Black pilots trained at Tuskegee who would eventually become known around the world as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Known for their extreme bravery and distinctive red-tail planes, the Tuskegee Airmen fought tirelessly to defend democracy abroad and to combat racism at home.

On October 29, 1944, Lieutenant Brewer's plane, named *Trav'lin' Light*, after the Billie Holiday song, went missing while on a mission out of Ramitelli Airbase in Italy.

That day, like so many other young Black men in his elite group, Lieutenant Brewer gave the ultimate sacrifice for a country that did not yet see him as an equal citizen. In serving and in giving his life, Lieutenant Brewer showed extraordinary faith in his country and in democracy that while imperfect in its protection and promotion of his life and livelihood, it could still be worthy of his ultimate sacrifice.

While Lieutenant Brewer did not live to see it, generations of survivors vindicated his sacrifice during the civil rights era, bringing our Nation closer to the dream of every man and every woman being created equal. That is the promise of democracy, Mr. Speaker. That is the promise for which he gave his life.

□ 1015

He was only 23 years old, and he left behind his parents, Fred, Sr., and Janie Brewer, and a younger sister, Gladys.

Thanks to the unyielding advocacy of his surviving cousins, Robena Brewer Harrison and Brenda L. Brewer, and the determined work of the POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Lieutenant Brewer's remains were identified in August.