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No. 50

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 21, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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, 2024, 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.

### WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a significant milestone: the 50th anniversary of Western Energy Alliance.

Oil and natural gas are affordable and reliable sources of energy that drive progress, power industries, and fuel innovation. The Alliance is a leader among the oil and gas associations

in understanding the complex Federal regulations surrounding production and development in the United States. They have been a strong voice for small- and mid-size companies in navigating Washington, D.C., and pulling together allies across the country.

Its members use responsible and innovative practices. Importantly, they have a demonstrated commitment to the environment. As a result, millions of Americans are able to heat their homes and power their vehicles.

The Alliance has been a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and conservation across the country. Congratulations to Western Energy Alliance on 50 years of excellence. Here is to many more years of progress and partnership.

#### THE RUN FORESTER RUN TEAM

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I often say I am blessed to have incredible staff who always exceed expectations in each of their respective roles, but today I rise to recognize some of the talents that go well beyond just the office.

Members of my staff, including Isabel David, Miles Bolin, Cross Thompson, Colen Morrow, Will King, Lonnie Smith, and Ian Macari, also known as the Run Forester Run team, have shown exceptional dedication as they train for the upcoming D.C. Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run, of which I am proud to be an honorary congressional co-chair.

One of the three key pillars that my staff and I follow is to compete to win. I have no doubt that the Run Forester Run team has worked hard to prepare for the opportunity that they will have in the upcoming race.

Godspeed in the race. I know they will make us proud.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY ROBOTICS TEAM

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas, is not only the alma

mater of two of our distinguished colleagues, Representatives STEVE WOMACK and KEVIN HERN, but I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Tech University Robotics team's outstanding performance at their tournament last month that earned them the distinction as the number one collegiate robotics team in the United States.

I am confident that with the exceptional talent they have already proven to possess, they will continue to represent ATU and Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District with distinction on the global stage at the upcoming world championship in Texas next month.

As a fellow engineer, I admire the dedication and exemplary skills necessary for these students to attain such accolades for their university, and I know the brotherhood they are gaining through this journey has been all the more valuable.

Again, I congratulate the ATU Robotics team for their incredible achievements thus far and wish each of the members continued success in all of their future endeavors. May you each continue to push the boundaries of innovation and uphold the legacy of excellence that defines Arkansas Tech University.

### THE CLOCK IS TICKING

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we have less than 25 hours until we adjourn for 2 weeks. We will go home. We will see our families. We will see our constituents. Nobody on the front lines of Ukraine will be going home in 25 hours. That is a privilege that our Ukrainian and Israeli allies do not have, and I would say those who are at risk in Gaza do not have.

If the Speaker agrees that we should move forward, that we need to secure

☐ 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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the aid that Ukraine so desperately needs, why hesitate? Why put this off?

Putin won't in his quest to conquer Ukraine. Hamas won't in its mission to destroy Israel. We cannot afford to delay in our defense of freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, the clock is ticking. May it sound in our ears as loudly as the Russian salvos that batter the trenches in Ukraine, the missiles that slam against the Iron Dome in Israel, and yes, the bombs that fall on the helpless.

Madam Speaker, the tens of thousands of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia don't get to adjourn their captivity, neither do the 134 hostages held in captivity in Gaza, nor do those who are craving humanitarian relief in Gaza.

When Russian troops encircled the city of Avdiivka last month, the Ukrainian defenders within didn't get to pack up and head home for 2 weeks. No, the city fell so quickly that hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers were trapped even before they received the order to withdraw. Why? One soldier who made it out explained: It was the lack of ammunition, no question.

There are 435 of us that sit in this body that can send that ammunition today, or at the latest tomorrow, yet we fail to act. This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. The world relies on America to be its leader, to bring stability where stability can be accomplished, to bring safety and freedom where it is achievable.

Madam Speaker, let us act. Let us act together with the over 300 votes with respect to Ukraine and some 400 votes with respect to Israel. That is the American majority that we represent. Not Republicans and Democrats, but America that is willing to stand not only for its own freedom but for the freedom of others around the world.

I was at the Elton John concert last night. It was a wonderful concert by a wonderful musician. He stood and said to us at the end of that concert: As I was growing up as a teenager and in my early 20s, all of my heroes were American.

He was talking about the spreading of American music throughout the world and particularly to his home country of England.

America has been the hero in coming to the aid of those in Europe and other places in the world whose freedom was at risk. Yet we remain silent in the sense of voting to pass a bill that was passed by 70 Members of the United States Senate, Republican and Democrats, all Americans, saying: We are here, we are coming, and we will stay steadfast to defend you, your people, and your freedom against the aggressors who would undermine freedom's holy light.

We are America. We have a responsibility that no other nation has, and it is to be that city on the hill, to be that beacon, to be that torch of liberty, and to be that country that will respond in

a timely fashion to defend freedom here and around the world.

Let us act before we leave this town.

#### A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY PINGERELLI

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished woman whose public service to Arizona has left a lasting impact on thousands of Arizonans.

Beverly Pingerelli began her career at Henry Ford Hospital after receiving her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. From there, she went on to work in the molecular medicine laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Eventually, Ms. Pingerelli moved on to public service where she was elected to the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board from 2015 to 2019. After serving on the board, Pingerelli chose to continue her public service in the Arizona State Legislature.

While serving Arizona Legislative District 28, Beverly Pingerelli has put a focus on economic prosperity, student success, and parental rights. She even sponsored legislation to expand parental oversight of public school library books and materials and cosponsored legislation to require voter ID and prohibit human smuggling.

Beverly Pingerelli is truly a force to be reckoned with in the legislature, and Arizona is lucky to have her representation.

#### TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY YEE

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has led our State with strength and helped to create one of the most prosperous economies in Arizona history: Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee.

Kimberly Yee was born and raised in Arizona and was the first Chinese-American Republican woman to be elected to a major statewide office in the history of the United States. She is the first Asian American elected to a statewide office in Arizona history.

Yee began her career in public service in 2010 when she was elected to the Arizona Legislature where she served for 8 years between the house and the senate. She was the second woman to serve as Senate majority leader since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served in Arizona in that same position.

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During her time as treasurer of Arizona, the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund hit record highs. She also led the effort to pass a State law requiring financial education for high school students prior to graduation.

Treasurer Yee's service to Arizona has raised financial literacy rates, improved Arizona's economy, and helped show young women and girls across the State that anything is possible.

#### AMERICAN CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, Congress needs to fully fund the American Connectivity Program, also known as ACP. This landmark initiative helps all Americans afford home internet access that is essential today to achieve work or education success.

In my district, Nancy Mendez said that one-half of the people in the United Palatine Coalition's beginning computer class relied on the ACP for their first-ever home internet access.

More broadly, Cook County estimates that more than 250,000 households in Cook County have been helped by the law. I want to congratulate and thank Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County for their successful implementation of the ACP.

Be that as it may, if the House doesn't act, those families in Cook County and elsewhere will lose their home internet access.

Let's pass the ACP reauthorization act now.

#### SEIU HEALTHCARE

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, in Illinois and across the country, America is in the midst of a childcare crisis. Today parents face a desert of childcare options, and the options available to them are increasingly unaffordable.

In addition, childcare workers face low wages and a lack of benefits that leave them unable to meet their own basic needs.

In Illinois, nearly 60 percent of parents live where there are not enough childcare providers. Parents and workers are shouldering the cost of care through massive enrollment fees, lower wages for care workers, and a steep decline in the number of licensed childcare providers. This situation is untenable and unacceptable.

SEIU Healthcare is fighting to create living wages and affordable services. Now it is our turn in Washington to meet the challenge. We must support the needs of parents and care workers alike by fully funding President Biden's request to stabilize childcare resources now.

#### CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, partisan gamesmanship over the southern border is causing this House to neglect the needs of thousands of legally admitted children and families for whom hunger and homelessness await.

Catholic Charities of Chicago estimates they now serve five to six times as many people at their pantries compared to 2020. These increases mirror those reported by other food banks, religious organizations, and not-for-profits nationwide, and they are all struggling to bridge the gap created by our inaction in Washington.