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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. BOST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 10, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST 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.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF THE REVEREND DR. TOMMIE L. LEWIS AS PASTOR OF BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH PRATT CITY

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor and tribute to the extraordinary career of a faithful servant leader, the Reverend Dr. Tommie L. Lewis, as we celebrate his retirement as the senior pastor of Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City after 42 years of service.

Throughout his life, Pastor T.L. Lewis has poured into his community

as both a faith leader and a public servant. After answering the call to ministry in 1973, he led several congregations before settling at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City in 1982.

As Pastor, Dr. T.L. Lewis worked to expand Bethel's congregation and deepen its impact by establishing a new worship center in 1990, which included a sanctuary with a seating capacity of 1,800. He commissioned a family life center, which became the Bethel Community Learning Center that garnered thousands of State and Federal dollars to support community development and educational initiatives.

After a tornado destroyed these buildings in 2011, it was Pastor Lewis who rallied the community together and rebuilt a beautiful new sanctuary that was completed and consecrated on August 24, 2014.

On a personal note, I have been blessed to call Pastor Lewis a dear friend, a trusted spiritual leader, and a mentor. It is because of him that so much has changed in Pratt City and Birmingham, and we are eternally grateful.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Dr. T.L. Lewis on his retirement as senior pastor at Bethel Missionary Baptist Church in Pratt City after 42 years.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. GLENDA BASKIN GLOVER AS PRESIDENT OF TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a trailblazing leader, Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, as she retires after 11 years as president of Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee.

The first woman to ever hold this position, Dr. Glover has spent her career breaking down barriers and shattering glass ceilings. A native of Memphis, Dr. Glover has had an accomplished career both in academia and in business. She is one of two African-American women nationwide to hold the combination of Ph.D., CPA, and J.D.

As president of Tennessee State University, Dr. Glover oversaw significant growth and further solidified TSU's status as one of America's premier HBCUs. Her efforts have earned her the role of vice chair of President Biden's HBCU board of advisers.

On a personal note, I know Dr. Glover as my sorority sister and as my mentor. Among her many affiliations, she is a lifetime member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and has served as immediate past international president. It was my mother, Nancy Gardner Sewell, who mentored Dr. Glover in her ascension and was so proud of her when she became the international president of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and the president of TSU.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Dr. Glenda Baskin Glover, the first woman president of Tennessee State University.

I know that her retirement does not mean the end of her commitment to community service. I know it will allow her some much-needed rest and time to spend with her family and friends. We wish her nothing but the best in her future endeavors.

NATIONAL COMMUNITY ACTION FOUNDATION'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible work of the National Community Action Foundation as they celebrate 60 years of community action.

Virtually every county throughout the country has a community action agency, which is an organization charged with fighting poverty at the local level. Today, I want to recognize

□ 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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some of the incredible work these agencies do at the local level to create opportunities for people to move from poverty to financial independence.

Community action agencies administer Federal funds from the community services block grant, which continues to be the only Federal program with the explicit and overarching goal of reducing poverty regardless of its cause.

The vast majority of CSBG funds, no less than 90 percent of each State's allotment, go directly to local agencies that can use these flexible funds to tailor a unique response to poverty in their communities.

Community action agencies are highly successful at leveraging their CSBG allotments to obtain a wide array of other public and private dollars, showing the immense benefits of supporting successful public-private partnerships. These agencies often help administer a wide array of programs, including Head Start, USDA food programs, LIHEAP, Federal homelessness programs, workforce funding, and much more.

For more than 60 years, the Community Action Network has inspired a spirit of hope. It has helped millions of people each year change their lives and has improved communities all across America.

I want to highlight one of the successful agencies in Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District: the Northern Tier Community Action Corporation.

Northern Tier Community Action has served a four-county region in my district since 1966, covering more than 3,000 square miles and serving thousands of individuals annually. They operate a highly successful Head Start program, providing education, health, nutrition, and social services to families with young children who otherwise may not be able to access these services in these rural communities.

Northern Tier also provides housing assistance to families facing imminent loss of their existing housing or who are currently homeless, and they help connect low-income individuals to everything from food to energy assistance.

While agencies like Northern Tier are successful at leveraging CSBG dollars, we can and must do more to make these dollars go even further. Unfortunately, the CSBG program has not been reauthorized in nearly three decades. The program, while successful, needs some modernization to allow agencies the ability to tap their full potential and better serve families and communities.

This program has a strong history of bipartisan support because of the great work it enables, which is why I continue to be a proud partner with my friend, Congresswoman SUZANNE BONAMICI, on championing recent reauthorization efforts. Several provisions would make the program significantly stronger, including expanded eligibility and an increased authorization to make sure these funds can serve those

most in need. It is also critical that community action agencies maintain local control over planning and activities and avoid a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach.

I am also excited about the possibility of a new broadband navigator program within CSBG to respond to the broadband and digital needs of low-income families and communities.

It is time for Congress to renew our Nation's commitment to reducing poverty by reauthorizing the community services block grant program.

I am grateful for the National Community Action Foundation and the community action agencies across the country that serve those most in need every day.

DYLAN JUDE HARRELL COMMUNITY CENTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today with immense pride to recognize DJH Kids, a remarkable nonprofit organization in my district. This exceptional group has successfully obtained a key permit for the proposed Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center in Ilwaco.

This community center honors the life of Dylan Jude Harrell, who was 4 years old when she was diagnosed with diffuse intrinsic pontine glioma, a rare and incurable brain cancer, before passing away 20 months later.

This community center will strengthen the foundations of Ilwaco by addressing the childcare crisis working families are facing and bringing together folks for recreational activities and community-led events.

Community centers like this one are key at a time when the average cost of childcare in the U.S. has risen by 220 percent in the last 30 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the folks at DJH Kids and the entire team supporting the Dylan Jude Harrell Community Center. I am excited for what the future of Ilwaco has in store.

HONORING DEPUTY DREW KENNISON

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the remarkable resilience and dedication of Deputy Drew Kennison of the Clark County Sheriff's Office. With his 15-year tenure, Deputy Kennison embodies the essence of a public servant.

Just a year following an incident that led to the amputation of his left leg above the knee, Deputy Kennison made a return to patrol duty. His injury resulted from a duty-related accident where a falling tree branch trapped him in his patrol vehicle. It was the efforts of his fellow SWAT team members and emergency responders who saved his life in a moment that reflected the best of those who serve our community.

Deputy Kennison remained positive and determined to return to service

throughout his recovery. His journey is a testament to his character and passion for service.

Mr. Speaker, I stand with my community in honoring his unwavering commitment to duty and wish him success as he works toward rejoining the SWAT team. Deputy Kennison embodies the best of southwest Washington and our law enforcement community, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for his service and the inspiration he provides to us all.

HONORING DOUGLAS "BILL" SWARTZ ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual in my district, Mr. Douglas "Bill" Swartz, a distinguished World War II veteran who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Bill's service journey began in the Navy, where he achieved the prestigious rank of radioman first class while stationed on the USS *Clark Mills*. While serving on the USS *Clark Mills*, the vessel was struck by a torpedo in the Mediterranean and sank.

Remarkably, Bill survived this dire situation, being rescued by a British tug, and his service journey didn't end there. Bill's service took him to the USS *Kingsbury*, and from there to Hiroshima.

Following World War II, Bill met and married his beloved Nancy in 1947, and they were happily married for 68 years. During this period, Bill was called back to the Navy to serve in the Korean war as a seaplane tender in Japan.

After his Navy career, he worked for the Federal Home Loan Bank as a loan examiner.

In recognizing Bill Swartz today, we honor not only his personal journey but also the indomitable spirit and sacrifice of countless veterans who have selflessly served our Nation. Bill's story serves as an example of courage, resilience, and dedication to the principles we all hold dear as Americans.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SERGEANT ALEC LANGEN

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Sergeant Alec Lengen, who was a graduate of Washougal High School in my district and one of the five marines killed in the February 6 helicopter crash during a training flight near San Diego.

Sergeant Lengen graduated from Washougal High School, where my son would attend high school, in 2018. He enlisted right out of high school.

Becoming a marine was a lifelong dream of his, allowing him to follow in the footsteps of his father.

He was promoted to the rank of sergeant in October 2022 and was a crew chief for the CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter just like his dad. Over his career, he earned several decorations, including Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals, a Good Conduct Medal, and many, many others.

Sergeant Lengen's story serves as a reminder of the sacrifice our military members and their families face while they serve our Nation.