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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,
April 16, 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 248TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HALIFAX RESOLVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge a pivotal chapter in our great Nation's history, a moment that forever altered the course of our destiny. It was 248 years ago that the seeds of liberty were sown in Halifax, North Carolina.

On April 12, 1776, a group of visionary delegates took a stand that would define the character and direction of a country yet to be born. The Halifax Resolves were not simply words on paper. They were a proclamation and a declaration of a dream for freedom that was bigger than themselves and bigger than any one of us.

That dream became North Carolina's loud call for American independence. The Halifax Resolves were born from a year of passionate debate, from a people united not by what they could see, but what they could imagine, a people who believed that a just world was possible.

We gathered over the weekend to commemorate the 248th anniversary of this momentous occasion, not only to reflect on the bravery and wisdom of our predecessors, but to recommit ourselves to the timeless principles embodied in the Halifax Resolves.

Madam Speaker, I stand on the shoulders of giants, and we must always remember that it is through the courage of those who came before us that we enjoy the freedoms that we hold dear today, a story of courage, a story of hope, a story that tells us that the path to freedom and independence may be long, but it is well worth it in the end.

Happy anniversary to the Halifax Resolves. May the legacy of freedom and bravery and independence continue to inspire us for generations to come.

HONORING NATIONAL LIBRARIAN DAY

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 in honor of National Librarian Day, which is recognized every April 16.

As we celebrate the profound impact of literature, let us not forget the un-

sung heroes behind its organization and dissemination, our dedicated librarians, of which my mother was one. With roughly 17,500 public libraries spread across the Nation, including more than 550 within Iowa, librarians are the pillar of our communities.

In an era marked by rapid digital transformation, librarians have managed to adapt to the times. Libraries now offer audiobooks, e-reader materials, free computer skills classes, and access to free online resources. Many public libraries even offer language and citizenship classes, access to useful tools, technology like 3D printers and computers, and free workshops on a variety of hobbies and life skills. They provide a quiet shelter during hot or rainy days at no cost, and they serve as a safe, welcoming hangout for people of all ages.

I am grateful for our librarians and thank them for all that they do.

IN RECOGNITION OF CONGRESSIONAL APP CHALLENGE WINNERS ISHIKA DESAI AND NISHITA GUDIPAT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ishika Desai and Nishita Gudipat from Pleasant Valley High School on winning the 2024 Congressional App Challenge.

Ishika and Nishita created an app called Orbit that manages the productivity of their fellow students. Every year, students around the country are asked to create an app that solves a district-specific problem, and this year, Ishika and Nishita rose to the occasion in Iowa's First Congressional District with Orbit.

The app challenge was created in 2016 to foster an appreciation for computer science and STEM. Since its inception, over 40,000 students across 50 States have participated in the challenge. The winning teams get their app displayed at the Capitol Building for a year. They also get to fly out to D.C. and meet with their Representatives.

□ 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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I was happy to meet with these young ladies and their parents and see firsthand how their app works. I congratulate them and all the winners.

IN CELEBRATION OF MODERN WOODMEN PARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Iowa's very own Modern Woodmen Park for once again being named the number one minor league ballpark in the country.

Modern Woodmen Park is home to the Quad City Bandits and seats more than 17,000 people. This stadium is perfect for baseball fanatics, as well as families who want to spend quality time together.

Attached to the field is a kids' amusement park that features roller coasters and the State's only double-decker carousel. This park has been a staple of Davenport since 1931 and provides the city with a much-needed economic boost.

I am proud of all those who help maintain this beautiful park, and I look forward to my next game there.

IN RECOGNITION OF CAITLIN CLARK

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Caitlin Clark, the University of Iowa's superstar player, for being selected first overall in the 2024 WNBA draft by the Indiana Fever.

Following back-to-back seasons of playing in the national championship game, Caitlin now finds herself competing for the most prestigious award in all of women's basketball, a WNBA championship.

Caitlin finished her illustrious college career as the highest scorer in NCAA basketball history, surpassing legends such as "Pistol" Pete Maravich and Kelsey Plum. She also won all major Player of the Year awards in her junior and senior years.

I could not be prouder of Caitlin and all that she accomplished at her young age. Additionally, even Coach Lisa Bluder said: When she came into the locker room as a freshman, she said: We are going to go to the Final Four.

No one believed her, but she inspired her coaches, her team, and her community to make it happen.

I can't wait to see the impact she has on the WNBA. As always, Go Hawks.

IN MEMORY OF CANDACE CARROLL

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Candace Carroll, a longtime San Diego attorney, constituent, and friend.

To say Candace was a trailblazer would be an understatement. I don't know how many women entered the legal profession in 1974, the year Candace graduated from Duke Law School. I do know that, just 4 years earlier, there were only 13,000 women lawyers in the entire United States.

Today, there are more than half a million.

Candace said of Duke Law: It was the first place I had ever been where, if you were a fairly loud, smart, and opinionated woman who put your hand up all the time, you were welcomed.

Indeed, Candace was never one to stay silent. Her accomplishments reflect that.

Her impressive legal career included a clerkship with the D.C. Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, 7 years as an appellate attorney for the National Labor Relations Board, and she practiced with Sullivan Hill Rez & Engel in San Diego for 30 years.

A mother of three, she advocated for women attorneys who were struggling to juggle a work-life balance, and she was also a champion for underserved communities, serving on the boards of San Diego Volunteer Lawyers, the national and local ACLU, and the San Diego chapter of the International Rescue Committee.

She cared about the next generation of attorneys. She taught seminars at Duke Law and the University of San Diego School of Law, where she supervised a Ninth Circuit legal clinic. She and her husband, Len, established fellowships at Duke to aid students working in nonpaid public interest positions during law school.

Candace also loved the arts. She served on the board of directors of the San Diego Opera and was credited with helping save the organization from being forced to shut down.

Madam Speaker, if everything I have mentioned doesn't reflect someone who has embraced a life of giving back, Candace also served as President of the San Diego County Bar Association and the California Women Lawyers, and chaired Senator Barbara Boxer's San Diego-area advisory committee for Federal judge and U.S. attorney nominations.

Sadly, Candace died from leukemia at her home in San Diego on January 24 with her husband, Len, and her sons, Daniel, Matthew, and David by her side. She was an inspiration to those who were lucky enough to know her friendship, compassion, and commitment to service firsthand, and San Diego is a better place because of her.

DESIGNATION OF TIJUANA RIVER AS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST ENDANGERED RIVERS

Mr. PETERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to mark the unfortunate designation today of the Tijuana River as one of America's most endangered rivers. While it gives me no pride that the Tijuana River is receiving this distinction, it will help bring critical attention to this environmental catastrophe and public health threat.

The sewage crisis has plagued the river for far too long, harming the environment, public health, tourism, our national security, and residents' quality of life.

We are finally beginning to turn the page on this crisis, thanks to advocacy efforts like this, and soon the story of

the Tijuana River will, I hope, be one of triumph and not tragedy.

Last month, we celebrated a victory when we secured \$156 million for the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission's construction budget. This money will go toward fixing and upgrading the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. It keeps us on track to begin work this year, but there is still a lot more to be done.

We will need to secure additional funding over the next few years to ensure this project is completed without delay and at the fully intended capacity.

I will continue working with my colleagues here in Congress to end this crisis so that, one day, the Tijuana River earns the distinction of being an environmental jewel and not an environmental disaster.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PICKETT COUNTY LADY BOBCATS

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, for many folks I represent in the Upper Cumberland Region of Tennessee, this year feels a lot like 1989. That is the last time that Pickett County Lady Bobcats were named TSSAA girls' basketball State champions.

They reclaimed that title last month when they defeated the Moore County Lady Raiders 56-45 in the class 1A final. The championship, Madam Speaker, was a family affair. Lady Bobcats guard Zoe Nicholas now joins her aunt and grandmother in having been members of a Pickett County State championship team.

It doesn't stop there. Nicholas' cousin, Callie Reeder, is also on the winning team and was even named Tournament Most Valuable Player.

The coach that led the team to victory, Brent Smith, has a brother named Barry, who happened to coach the last winning team 35 years ago.

It is important to note that, even though this is the first State championship in a while, the program does very well every season. It is also important to note that, each time the Lady Bobcats have made it out of the quarterfinals and advanced to the State championship, they have won.

I congratulate the current champions for keeping that now six-time winning streak alive.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to represent Pickett County and many places like it that take so much pride in their families, communities, and their home team.

Again, I congratulate the Pickett County Lady Bobcats 2024 TSSAA Single A girls' basketball State champions.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 2024-2025 TENNESSEE FFA STATE OFFICER TEAM

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize the 2024-2025 Tennessee Future Farmers of America State Officer team.