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No. 17

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 30, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PETE STAUBER 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.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK ORTIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, it is with immense pride that I rise to recognize my longtime friend, Pembroke Pines Mayor Frank Ortis.

Mayor Ortis has been a resident of Pembroke Pines since 1977 and has a long history of service to our community. He was elected to the Pembroke Pines City Commission in 1996 and

elected as its mayor in 2004, serving in that position for the last 20 years.

His ties run deep, as he has served and serves on numerous boards and committees, including the Broward and Florida League of Cities; chairman of the United States Conference of Mayors Committee on Jobs, Education, and the Workforce; the United States Conference of Mayors vice chair for Sports and Recreation, Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment, and Sports; and the Broward County Workforce One Development Board.

A graduate of the Pittsburgh Institute of Aeronautics, Mayor Ortis also served as president of the Florida State Council of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, and as president of the Broward County AFL-CIO.

His work to improve the lives of working families made transformative impacts throughout the Sunshine State. As a devoted public servant for more than 27 years, Mayor Ortis helped transform the city of Pembroke Pines into a world-class city to live, work, and visit.

His leadership expanded the city's arts and culture footprint, its outstanding schools, and the recreational offerings it provides to residents of all ages.

Under his leadership, Pembroke Pines was designated as an All-America City, which recognizes communities that "leverage civic engagement, collaboration, inclusiveness, and innovation to successfully address local issues." That is a very apt description for the imprint Mayor Ortis has and continues to make.

Mayor Frank Ortis leads with his heart, and, on behalf of the people of Florida's 25th Congressional District, we are grateful for his leadership and wish him well on his retirement from public service. I will miss him. I will miss working alongside him, but our loss is his family's gain.

I wish Frank a hearty congratulations on his retirement and am grate-

ful for his invaluable work for the residents of Pembroke Pines, Broward County, and the State of Florida.

INFLATION

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since President Biden took office, inflation has risen by over 17.2 percent. The spike in prices from the gas pump to the grocery store has forced Americans to spend, additionally, \$11,000 a year just to afford basic goods.

A family can't afford repair bills that have increased due to inflation, young people cannot save money to buy a home when the price of rent has increased by 18 percent, and seniors can't afford their medications when food prices have risen by 20 percent in just 3 years.

This inflation is a tax on each and every American, and it is caused by the runaway spending of President Joe Biden's budget. American families cannot afford to carry on with business as usual. Our country cannot afford for inflation to outpace wages year after year while American families pay the price, and the Biden administration promotes continued reckless spending.

At a time when Americans are already paying high heating prices, President Biden canceled the sale of liquefied natural gas, cutting jobs here at home, and raising the cost to heat our homes.

It is time to address the inflation caused by Joe Biden's 3-year spending spree. It is time now to return to fiscal responsibility.

It is time to stop growing our deficit and borrowing money from China to subsidize far-left energy programs.

Americans are counting on us to counter this out-of-control inflation,

□ 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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and it is time that the President puts what is good for our country ahead of what would benefit him politically.

RESECURE OUR BORDER

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this past week, we learned that the Biden administration's open border policies have allowed an Al-Shabaab terrorist to live freely in the United States for almost a year.

By promoting catch and release policies that allowed this to occur, President Biden has shown that he is uninterested in keeping American communities safe.

Ending the remain in Mexico policy, reinstating catch and release, and halting the construction of our border wall have led to a record surge of illegal immigrants and a surge of illegal drugs pouring into our Nation, including deadly fentanyl.

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez was killed in the line of duty just outside of Mission, Texas, while pursuing a group of illegal immigrants. This week, it is critical that we pass the Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act to protect our border communities by criminalizing fleeing from agents or officers during a high-speed chase.

Americans deserve a border that is secure and a Nation that is safe. President Biden needs to immediately take action to resecure our border and stop the flow of deadly drugs and illegal immigrants into these great United States.

IN HONOR OF OFFICERS JACOB NORIEGA AND TY VESPERAS

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, our law enforcement officers risk their lives every day to keep our communities safe.

Last month, that bravery was put on full display when first responders were called to UNLV during a horrific active shooter alert, which tragically ended in the deaths of three professors and the traumatization of countless other students and staff.

Among those first responders were metro officers Jacob Noriega and Ty Vesperas, who encountered a fourth shooting victim immediately upon arriving at the scene. With Officer Noriega applying pressure to the victim's chest wound and Officer Vesperas racing them in a cruiser to a nearby ambulance, these officers were critical in saving the victim's life. They are heroes who ran toward danger. That is why we must stand by our law enforcement. When they see an opportunity to help someone in need, they don't hesitate.

These heroic actions in the face of a deadly threat were a silver lining on a very dark day in our community. The recognition they received for their lifesaving efforts from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is well de-

served. I will continue to do everything I can in Congress to make sure our law enforcement has all the support they need to protect southern Nevada families.

RABBI FELIPE GOODMAN

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his 25 years of dedicated service to Temple Beth Sholom in southern Nevada.

Before joining Temple Beth Sholom in 1998, Rabbi Goodman served as the assistant rabbi in Comunidad Bet-El de Mexico in Mexico City, one of the largest conservative synagogues in Latin America.

Rabbi Goodman has served as the senior rabbi at Temple Beth Sholom in Las Vegas for 25 years, where his charisma and dedication has made a profound impact on our community. His dedication has increased attendance at Shabbat services significantly during his tenure and transformed Temple Beth Sholom into a more vibrant, stronger congregation.

In 2013, Rabbi Goodman was selected by The Daily Forward as one of America's most inspiring rabbis among the distinguished 36 rabbis shaping the 21st century.

In the past, he has served as a member of the Chancellor's Rabbinic Advisory Committee at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, a member of the executive committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, and as president of the Board of Rabbis of Southern Nevada.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Rabbi Felipe Goodman for his many years of dedicated service to southern Nevada and congratulating Rabbi Goodman on his 25th Anniversary Jubilee.

LIFE AND LEGACY OF CECIL O'BRATE

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Cecil O'Brate, who passed away on January 20 at the age of 95.

Cecil was born in 1928 at the beginning of the Great Depression. Throughout his childhood, he worked countless jobs to help support his family, eventually moving from Oklahoma to Kansas to farm 3,000 acres of rented Kansas farmland with his grandparents when he was 18. There, he met the love of his life, Frances Cole, with whom he celebrated 76 years of marriage together last year.

By 1966, Cecil had invested in agricultural equipment manufacturing and, by 1984, he had become an oil and gas producer in Kansas.

At the end of his life, Cecil was the largest independent oil and gas producer in the entire State of Kansas, and he owned those original 3,000 acres that he rented in 1948, along with farmland across Kansas and Colorado—the

fruits of a lifetime of tireless work and ingenuity.

Cecil was a jack-of-all-trades. In addition to farming, equipment manufacturing, and oil and gas production, Cecil was a community bank owner, an ethanol producer, and a real estate developer.

In 2013, Cecil and Frances established the O'Brate Foundation, which has provided nearly \$7 million in college scholarships to students, many of whom grew up in poverty and in the foster care system. Cecil was also a major benefactor to his beloved Oklahoma State University, making transformational investments in the university's athletics programs.

Cecil lived by his motto, "Make it Happen." He once said, I have found no substitute for an honest day's work, an inquisitive mind, and a desire to always do more.

In all that he did, Cecil lived out the Kansas conservative values of faith, family, hard work, personal responsibility, and love for your neighbor.

Cecil was a loving father and a devoted husband who was blessed to live long enough to meet his great-great-granddaughter. His legacy of generosity and leadership will be missed dearly.

To Cecil's wife, Frances; his 4 sons, Patrick, Michael, Steve, and Mark, along with their wives; and his 8 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and his great-great-granddaughter, as well as his business partners and the entire American Warrior family, my thoughts and prayers are with you as you remember Cecil's legacy of love.

□ 1015

HONORING MINNESOTA LAW ENFORCEMENT ON JANUARY FENTANYL SEIZURE

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

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Minnesota heroes.

Earlier this month, the Washington County Drug Task Force, made up of law enforcement from Dakota, Ramsey, and Washington Counties, successfully executed the largest fentanyl seizure in Minnesota history.

The officers seized over 30,000 grams of fentanyl pills and charged six individuals for their role in trafficking these drugs. It is difficult to comprehend the devastation that could have befallen these families if those pills had reached our community.

In Minnesota, we know that fighting the fentanyl crisis will require all members of our communities to do their part.

From those dedicated members of Minnesota law enforcement to the parents and advocates who have shared their stories with me, to the educators working to raise awareness about the dangers of illicit drugs, we all have a