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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. 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,
May 7, 2024.

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, 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.

ANIMAL PROTECTION CAUCUS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER Mr. Speaker, in less than 8 months, I am going to conclude my 28 years here in the House. One of my major priorities and proudest accomplishments has been to chair the Animal Protection Caucus and lead the effort in a number of those provisions. It didn't start out that way, but the more I listened, the more I studied, this priority stood out.

My first major accomplishment dealt with animal fighting, a barbaric practice with hidden support in Congress and around the country. There are pockets of some States where this tradition continues, but it is a barbaric tradition. They train dogs and chickens to fight to the death, and it is often organized in rings of criminal elements, people who are involved with illegal gambling, drugs. It is indescribable in terms of the cruelty that is involved. There are times where there are children involved watching this, the drugs, the potential harm to animals.

Infections took place with the chickens. There were millions of chickens that had to be destroyed because of infections that spread through animal fighting. This all is hidden from the general public. When the focus was trained on it, we were able to gain momentum here and ultimately enact step-by-step painful accomplishments that cracked down on this cruel activity.

They are some of the worst people on the planet, as I mentioned, dealing with drugs, gambling, money laundering, and the risk to the animal's health. We watched how the agenda broadened to include other areas as well—performing animals, protections of elephants, big cats.

Again, public attention on the cruel and dangerous practices that helped us make significant progress broaden the agenda beyond just animal cruelty. What we found is that the care and welfare of people's pets was also important in terms of protecting families. We found repeatedly that people would put themselves in harm's way in conditions of flood and natural disaster because they didn't want to leave their pets. Domestic abusers would stay with the abuser because they were afraid of what would happen to their pets.

We worked to expand protections in shelters for disasters and domestic vio-

lence to be able to include people's pets so they would feel more comfortable actually availing themselves to the services.

I am pleased with the strength of the movement. It has gained momentum. My law school alma mater, Lewis & Clark College, had one of the first animal studies programs across the country. We are watching these spread in colleges and universities across the country, where more and more people are studying, learning, and protecting animal provisions.

I was pleased that we recently have a rule now that will end the horrific practice of animal soring. This is where you torture a horse by wounding it so that it will have that distinctive gait or it would have extraordinarily heavy weights on their legs to develop that distinctive gait that is prized by some people who show horses, but is hopelessly cruel to animals themselves.

Year after year, we had a majority of people in both Houses supporting legislation to end this practice, but we were thwarted time and again by the special interests who wanted to promote the Tennessee walking horses.

Finally, we have seen a rule that has been promulgated that will end it after years of struggle. It is one more signal that the animal welfare movement is alive, well, and gaining momentum. It is something I hope to put my energies into in the remaining time I have in Congress to build this bipartisan movement to protect animals and meet our responsibilities.

RECOGNIZING IMPORTANCE OF MUSIC EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of music education. We

□ 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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recognized Music In Our Schools Month last month, but today, I want to recognize the 10 school districts and 2 schools in my district that were named for outstanding support of music education.

Over the past 25 years, the National Best Communities for Music Education Award has honored more than 1,000 schools and districts in 43 States for their unwavering commitment to music education as an integral part of a well-rounded education for all students.

Every year, the National Association of Music Merchants Foundation recognizes school districts across the country that are among the best communities in the Nation for music education. The award program recognizes and celebrates outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who have made music education part of a well-rounded education.

This year, they recognized 975 school districts, with 10 across the 15th Congressional District. Whether it be music class, choir, concert band, marching band, or the school musical, having music access and education is important for students' development.

Music is an incredibly important component of a well-rounded education—support access to music education and inspire the next generation.

I congratulate Armstrong County School District, Bald Eagle Area School District, Bellefonte Area School District, Clearfield Area School District, Curwensville Area School District, DuBois Area School District, Lewisburg Area School District, Port Allegany Area School District, State College Area School District, and West Branch Area School District on this distinguished award.

The NAMM Foundation also recognizes individual school districts with the Support Music Merit Award. This award is an opportunity for an individual school—public, private, parochial, or charter—to be acknowledged for its commitment to music education. I congratulate the Saint Francis School and the Tidioute Community Charter School.

This recognition continues to highlight the hard work our educators do to provide a comprehensive education that includes the arts. I congratulate all the schools in our region that have been recognized for their efforts to promote a well-rounded education.

CONGRATULATING FULLERTON SCHOOL DISTRICT ON TURNIP THE BEET AWARD

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor Fullerton School District for receiving the USDA's Turnip the Beet award.

The Turnip the Beet award recognizes schools that go above and beyond

to provide high-quality meals for children during the summer. Without initiatives like this, many students would not have access to nutritional meals through the day during the summer.

Not only did Fullerton School District win the Turnip the Beet award in 2023, but they also are one of seven California school districts to win the gold.

I congratulate the Fullerton School District for their commitment to our youth and their health and for receiving, of course, this well-earned recognition.

ADVANCING RESEARCH ON BREAKTHROUGH THERAPIES

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to tell you about the work my colleague, General JACK BERGMAN, and I are doing as co-chairs of the Congressional Psychedelics Advancing Therapies Caucus.

The PATH Caucus, as it is known, is addressing the rising mental health challenges faced by millions of Americans by advancing research on breakthrough therapies like psychedelics.

Almost 50 million Americans struggle with some kind of mental health issue, as well as our veterans. Of course, our veterans carry those hidden scars from their service to this country.

The issue of mental health has never been more urgent for America. That is why we are spreading awareness in Congress to increase Federal funding for more research and to chart a new path for those who are struggling with mental health.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to the American public to study how we can better address mental illness in this country.

RECOGNIZING CYBERPATRIOT CHAMPIONS TROY HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Troy High School students for their impressive victory in the national CyberPatriot cybersecurity competition.

The students on the team placed sixth amongst almost 3,000 in the open division. In the All Services division, students on Team W.A.T.T. placed first out of almost 1,400.

Led by their coach and teacher, David Kim, these students competed against thousands of other students in a series of cybersecurity tests, finding and fixing cybersecurity vulnerabilities like the ones we face on a day-to-day basis.

These Orange County students have shown us that America is safe in the future from cybersecurity attacks. As these Troy High School students return home to Orange County, they have made us proud and have shown us that we can rely on the next generation to keep America safe in the environment of cybersecurity.

HONORING ED MULICK

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

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor an exemplary figure in education from Utah, Mr. Ed Mulick, of Park City High School.

Just like the Olympians who go for gold on the mountains of Park City, Mr. Mulick has achieved the Sarah and Stephen Doilney Teaching Excellence Award for an unparalleled fifth time.

Awarded by the Park City Education Foundation, this achievement is not just a testament to his excellence but his enduring impact on generations of students.

Like a champion returning to the field season after season, Mr. Mulick has continually elevated educational standards and inspired countless students through his dedication and passion for biology.

Mr. Mulick has not always been a teacher. After college, he worked as a weekend recreation counselor in Alaska. He then transferred to the State's Municipal Parks and Recreation Department.

Ed and his wife, Dana, moved to Park City after he completed his teaching degree at the University of Utah. Dana grew up in Heber, where her father worked as a miner. They fell in love with Park City, where they purchased their home.

Mr. Mulick has worked solely at Park City High School during his 34-year career.

On receiving the award for a fifth time, Mr. Mulick was humbly quoted as saying: "It is quite an honor because there are so many great and deserving teachers in the school district."

I commend Mr. Mulick for his outstanding contributions to education and the lives he has positively shaped.

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HONORING CASE GIBSON

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Case Gibson from Lone Oak Middle School in Hunt County, Texas. It is with great honor and admiration that I recognize his remarkable bravery and selflessness.

During a medical emergency in September of 2023, Case Gibson demonstrated extraordinary courage and quick thinking, ultimately saving the life of a fellow student. Despite the intense and urgent situation, he fearlessly jumped into action, displaying a level of empathy, bravery, and maturity far beyond his years.

The heroic actions of Case Gibson on this day serve as a shining example of the exceptional character and leadership qualities he embodies, both within Lone Oak Middle School and the community.

In addition to his heroic deed, he is recognized for his outstanding academic achievements, his leadership skills, and his humble, respectful, and thoughtful demeanor.