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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BUCSHON).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 14, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LARRY BUCSHON 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, 2023, 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 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during National Police Week, we recognize the brave men and women of law enforcement who serve and protect our communities each and every day.

From carrying out arrest warrants to conducting outreach at our schools to patrolling our streets, police officers

provide invaluable service to our communities, helping to keep each and every American safe.

Far too often, these officers experience threats and violence in their work, and tragically, 136 law enforcement officers were killed in the line of duty last year.

It was President Ronald Reagan who said: "Evil is powerless if the good are unafraid." Through their heroic actions, these officers embodied the spirit of that message, and we can never truly fully repay the debt that we owe them.

This week, let's recommit ourselves to standing with law enforcement and ensuring that these men and women have the tools and resources that they need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

INVESTING IN AMERICAN ENERGY

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, under President Biden's failed leadership, energy prices have skyrocketed, and American families are feeling the effects of an administration that has neglected our energy security in favor of far-left Green New Deal policies.

Since President Biden took office, energy prices have soared by 30 percent, squeezing families who are already hurting from President Biden's inflation.

By canceling the Keystone XL pipeline, by halting new oil and natural gas leases, and by deploying new EPA rules that limit new development, Joe Biden has sent a clear message that he cares more about scoring political points with his base than he does about the safety and the security of the American people.

This past January, the Biden administration announced a ban on new LNG export projects, empowering countries like Russia and Iran while hurting our allies who depend on U.S. energy.

Now isn't the time to rely on ineffective energy sources like wind turbines

and solar farms. We know that the power American families need is underneath the feet of my constituents in Pennsylvania. Unlocking the natural gas that we have can lower energy prices while providing clean and reliable power.

Now isn't the time for new regulations that limit energy growth. It is time to invest in American energy and put a stop to the Green New Deal.

CONGRATULATING CHRIS SILVA AND STEPHEN LAMARCA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor two visionaries of the Hudson Valley arts scene upon their retirement.

Chris Silva and Stephen LaMarca have been life forces for the region's live music and theater performances for the past three decades, revitalizing the Bardavon Opera House built in 1869 in Poughkeepsie and the Ulster Performing Arts Center in my hometown of Kingston.

The two together preserved the Bardavon's record as the oldest operating theater in New York State, keeping it afloat through many trying times.

Their ingenuity and savviness brought big name stars from Aretha Franklin and Bob Dylan to Jon Stewart to the theaters.

Chris and Stephen's impact on the community goes beyond the bright marquee lights. Their big-time gigs helped fund extensive service to our community, from free films for kids to educational programs, and igniting economic boons for the surrounding downtown neighborhoods in both Poughkeepsie and Kingston.

Although their retirement won't come until the end of this year, as they prepare, I wish them a restful and

□ 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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happy retirement, spent with the satisfaction of knowing they are responsible for inspiring an estimated 2.5 million audience members through the over 2,500 artists and performances they brought to the stage in the Hudson Valley.

HONORING DENNIS DEGROAT, JR.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor World War II veteran Dennis DeGroat, Jr., who recently passed in his hometown of Port Jervis, New York, only weeks after the entire community came together to celebrate his 100th birthday and only hours after finally being pinned with a Purple Heart that had been missing and replaced from years ago.

Dennis' life of service to our Nation is incredible and started in the Civilian Conservation Corps. He then went on to serve in the Army, protecting freedom and democracy for all Americans and the world on the front lines in Europe, including on the shores of Normandy and in the Battle of the Bulge, and suffering grievous injuries at the Battle of Aachen.

In that battle, he nearly lost both of his legs and was told that he would never walk again, but that was no match for Dennis. He relearned to walk and never slowed down again.

He came back to his home community and worked well into his 90s, and his incredible legacy of service and positivity lives on through 20 grandchildren, 47 great-grandchildren, 19 great-great-grandchildren, and countless others that his 100 years of heroism, humility, and service inspired.

Dennis is proof that a century spent in service to others leaves an impact that will last many, many more.

CONGRATULATING LIEUTENANT BRANDON ROLA

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Brandon Rola on being named the new chief of police for the city of Newburgh, New York.

Lieutenant Rola is Newburgh through and through. He decided early on in his life to commit fully to serving his community, our community.

At only 38, he is already a 16-year veteran of the Newburgh Police Department, recognized over 30 times for his meritorious and heroic acts.

If you know Brandon, it truly is not about the awards; it is about protecting his community and protecting his neighbors.

It is this sense of duty and selfless service that drove him into a cold, snowy Thanksgiving night in 2014 at 2 a.m. in search of two missing boys.

During the search, he found a shovel next to a snowbank, felt a gut instinct to dig, and ultimately found the missing boys buried in an 8-foot tall snowbank. He rightly received national attention after the rescue but humbly said: It was a good day.

Today is a good day for Newburgh, and tomorrow and many more after, with the city's safety in the hands of Lieutenant Rola, a tried-and-true public servant.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN STEVEN MINARD

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Steven Minard on his retirement after over four decades of extraordinary and selfless public service to the city of Poughkeepsie Police Department and all the residents of the city of Poughkeepsie in the Hudson Valley.

Throughout his incredible career, Captain Minard went above and beyond in his call to protect and serve. In addition to his selfless service and great risk to himself and his family, he earned a master's degree and ultimately a Ph.D., becoming Dr. Minard, expanding the impact of his service and training others in our local community colleges and surrounding universities. He attended the FBI Academy and developed training ultimately for the FBI National Executive Institute.

He has not only directly uplifted the Poughkeepsie community by building trust and delivering peace of mind but made countless communities across New York safer through the curriculum he developed and taught.

While his retirement from the force will be felt and he will be deeply missed, I am hopeful for the future because of the thousands of others he has trained to be champions for their communities just like he has been.

HONORING PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS

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

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Publix Super Markets as they donate their one-hundred-millionth pound of produce to food banks across their eight-State footprint.

When leaders at Publix learned that farmers were plowing under produce crops in 2000 because markets dried up, they decided to purchase produce from farmers and give it away to their partners at Feeding America.

As of today, Publix has donated 100 million pounds of produce to 35 food banks.

I am proud to have Publix headquartered in my congressional district and appreciate all they are doing in partnership with food banks throughout the Southeast.

We congratulate all Publix associates on this important milestone and for doing good, together.

HONORING JACKIE AND DAVID SIEGEL

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the floor about a very important topic but really to honor two people, Jackie and David Siegel of central Florida.

Jackie and David Siegel, as proud Americans, have stepped up to form

what is known as the Victoria's Voice Foundation.

The story behind this is one that resonates with millions of Americans. They lost their daughter, 18 years old, to the ravages of drug addiction, to the ravages of what started as a simple marijuana cigarette turning into a THC-induced addiction that led her onward through drugs, ultimately to her death.

Mr. Speaker, across this country, millions of American families are searching for ideas not only about the truth behind the problems with THC, which is the active ingredient in marijuana, but also the ravages of drugs that come after that because marijuana is a gateway to these harder drugs that so many people move to.

David and Jackie Siegel understood this as they watched not just their daughter's addiction but how she moved herself through drugs, and eventually it led them to seek time for her to receive treatment.

Treatment, while very important, is stronger than love is, and that is what they learned also. David and Jackie watched their daughter as she spiraled through not only drug addiction but the people that she became associated with.

I stand today to say that David and Jackie Siegel did something about this as they joined a nationwide organization that is intended to teach communities, schools, and parents that there is a way to not only understand and comprehend the things that are happening to our youth but a way to become active to where they can address these issues. They accomplish this by working with schools, by working with parents, and by working with law enforcement to make sure that these ravages of drug addiction are not only understood but addressed.

Mr. Speaker, David Siegel lost an 18-year-old daughter he loved very much, and it has caused him and Jackie to spend millions of dollars to give this outreach the voice that Victoria held and brings to light how important that is to them because they care about other people also.

Families all across this country are struggling to find exactly how to address this; how to take on a big problem. I would suggest today that Jackie and David Siegel, through Victoria's Voice Foundation, have provided a really clear way for the American people, for families, for communities, and for schools who are struggling with these addiction problems, who are struggling with not just the psychosis that happens but ultimately the death of so many of our students.

I think that David had the right idea when he said he didn't want this to happen to another family without the knowledge of what they could do to become engaged to save not just their children but other children in their community.

Mr. Speaker, today, I stand up and salute Jackie and David Siegel for not