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No. 168

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL GUEST 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 THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOY SCOUT MEMORIAL

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 60th anniversary of the National Boy Scout Memorial in our Nation's Capital.

The Boy Scouts of America aims to prepare young people for lives of impact and purpose.

Since the Boy Scouts' founding in 1910 here in Washington, D.C., the organization has grown to become one of the largest youth organizations in the United States with over 1 million Scouts.

The United States Congress passed a congressional charter in 1916, officially establishing the Boy Scouts of America. The mission remains steadfast: "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

In 1959, the 50th anniversary year of Scouting, Lyndon Baines Johnson, then-Senate majority leader, introduced a measure to establish the memorial. Scouts from across the Nation displayed their dedication and passion for Scouting by raising 100 percent of the funding needed to complete the statue.

Scouts who were able to collect \$5 in dimes sent in their collections and had their names printed on special scrolls.

The legacies of these Scouts and their dedication lives on, with all the scrolls still residing inside the boxes at the statue's base.

The sculpture sits at the location of the 1937 National Scout Jamboree, the very first jamboree. It was dedicated on November 7, 1964, and over 1,000 Scouts, leaders, family members, military personnel, members of government, and guests were present.

This weekend I was proud to attend the 60th anniversary ceremony.

Officially named the "Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute," it was the very first statue or memorial in D.C. dedicated to a living or ongoing cause, not a past leader or event.

The three statues represent the fundamental principles of Scouting. The young Scout in the middle symbolizes all Scouts past, present, and future, and is a beacon for good. The male and female figures symbolize the strength for both manhood and womanhood.

The male represents ideals of physical, mental, and moral fitness, citizenship, honor, and courage, while the female represents enlightenment, love of fellow man, justice, and freedom.

As a proud Eagle Scout and a Scout Master for over 30 years, Scouting has been an essential part of my young and adult life. Even in my current role as U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I use the lessons and values learned in Scouting to guide my decisionmaking.

The Scout Oath tells us that we have a duty to God, to country, to others, and to self, and this is a checklist I use when voting on the House floor.

Scouting enables the next generation of youth to develop leadership skills, connect with their community, build self-confidence, and gain numerous other benefits for themselves and their country.

The Scouting program is one of the best youth organizations for cultivating a sense of responsibility and allows youth to become engaged citizens who care and respect their communities.

I will always cherish the time I spent in Scouting and value its role in shaping me into who I am today.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years, Scouting has instilled essential values into our young people. This organization has helped develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, and citizenship skills that continue influencing these Scouts' adult lives.

The impact of Scouting cannot be measured. This monument stands as a powerful tribute, not just to the Boy Scouts themselves, but to the values they carry and their positive impact on our communities, Nation, and the world.

Let this memorial remind us of our responsibility to support and inspire the next generation to dedicate themselves to a lifetime of service.

☐ 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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ECONOMIC DREAMERS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an urgent challenge facing our Nation, one that, if left unresolved, could lead to an economic and moral disaster.

This challenge is the uncertain future of our Dreamers, individuals who embody the very spirit of the American Dream. These Dreamers were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own. They grew up with our kids, attended our schools. They pledged allegiance to our flag, the only flag that they have ever known. If given the chance, many would die for it as many have done through their service in the military. They share the same hopes, the same dreams, and the same dedication to building a better America as all of us.

They contribute as taxpayers, small business owners, educators, artists, and aspiring public servants. During the pandemic, they stepped up as essential workers. They served as doctors, nurses, and first responders to keep our communities healthy and safe.

Instead of being recognized and celebrated, they live under the fear of constant threat, not because of their actions, but because of our inaction. They live in fear, fear that at any moment their lives could be uprooted by the stroke of a pen or a court decision or a tweet.

Every day they contribute to our communities, strengthen our economy, and make America a place worth living in.

Let's make one thing clear, Mr. Speaker: Immigrants, including Dreamers, are a tremendous economic force for good in this country, regardless of what some people in the majority may say or want to believe.

One study found that immigrants account for 17 percent of the U.S. GDP, or more than \$3.3 trillion. Make no mistake: Dreamers pay their fair share and more.

Since 2012, when President Obama created the DACA program, DACA recipients have paid some \$20 billion in Federal and payroll taxes and a further \$13 billion in State and local taxes.

In my very own home State of Texas, which has the second highest number of DACA recipients, Dreamers contribute over \$16 billion annually to our State's economy.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker: The U.S. economy cannot afford to lose this workforce, the talent, and the drive that Dreamers bring to this country.

In Texas alone, if DACA were to end, it would result in an estimated 2,600 job losses every single month, including 200 healthcare jobs and 100 educators.

That is nothing short of a national failure. Congress has a responsibility to act and pass solutions. Bipartisan bills like mine, the American Dream and Promise Act, could pass in this

House today if only it were brought to a vote.

This legislation would provide Dreamers with the security they deserve and ensure our economy remains competitive.

According to some estimates, creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers would increase the GDP by over \$799 billion in 10 years. That is not chump change. It would create more than a quarter of a million jobs.

Unfortunately, very few Republicans are working with us or are even willing to sit down and talk so that we can move forward on this issue.

For the sake of our economy and our future, I hope that course changes.

Mr. Speaker, please work with me and my Democratic colleagues to get this done. I know we can take care of Dreamers and immigrants who contribute to our economy and do more together to secure our border.

To close, I will share the story of three fellows who served in my office this past year. They served our constituents, upheld our Constitution, and exemplified what it means to be an American, all while knowing we could never even hire them in the end full time.

They are Dreamers. They are bright, young, dedicated people who deserve a permanent place here without fear of deportation. They and their families deserve better.

It is time for Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis to pass the American Dream and Promise Act and to keep the American Dream alive. We cannot let it die. We cannot let it go cold.

Let's step up and act with courage. Let's pass the American Dream and Promise Act to secure our border and unleash the economic potential of Dreamers across the country.

ENSURING OUR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS GET THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE THEY DESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9929, the Corrections Officer Blake Schwarz Suicide Prevention Act.

This critical legislation, which I introduced, creates a grant program to fund mental health screenings and provide essential resources for corrections officers, men and women who face some of the most dangerous and mentally taxing work in law enforcement.

Correction officers are exposed daily to verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, creating an environment that takes a profound toll on their mental health.

Tragically, suicide rates among these officers are far higher than the national average. It is unacceptable that those who protect our communities are left without the support they need to protect their own well-being.

This bill is backed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, representing over 377,000 officers who stand with us in calling for action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this vital legislation, ensuring our corrections officers get the mental health care they deserve.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN HENRY LANGREHR ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of World War II veteran Henry Langrehr, who turned 100 on November 4.

As a native of Clinton, Iowa, Henry left school in 1942 to join the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and at 19 years of age, was one of the first paratroopers to jump in during the landing at Normandy.

Following the battle, Henry was wounded and taken as a prisoner of war, sent to Czechoslovakia to work in a camp mining coal, which he later escaped in a harrowing runaway. Following his escape, he returned to Clinton and began a successful career in business.

All in all, Henry has been the recipient of two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the French Legion of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Henry, a true American hero and an example of Iowa's best, a very happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING HEAD COACH KIRK FERENTZ ON HIS 200TH BIG TEN CONFERENCE WIN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa Football Head Coach Kirk Ferentz on recording his 200th win in the Big Ten Conference, moving him into second place of all time.

Coach Ferentz's historic victory came at home against the Washington Huskies where the Hawkeyes dominated with a 40-16 win.

Since then, Iowa has earned two more victories, bringing Coach Ferentz's total to 202 wins, just three shy of an all-time record for the Big Ten coaching victories.

Coach Ferentz has led Iowa since 1999, guiding the team to two Big Ten championships and earning four Big Ten Coach of the Year honors, along with the prestigious AP College Football Coach of the Year award.

Beyond wins, Coach Ferentz has built a culture of excellence that has shaped countless young athletes, and I know personally that he considers these athletes like his family.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Ferentz on his remarkable achievement. We look forward to celebrating his future success as the all-time winningest coach in the Big Ten.

Go Hawkeyes.

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RECOGNIZING MEGHAN PURCELL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Meghan Purcell.