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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. MOORE of Alabama).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 11, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARRY MOORE 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 KATHY MANNING, WILEY NICKEL, AND JEFF JACKSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the distinguished service of three of my colleagues who will not be returning to this Chamber in January: Congresswoman KATHY MANNING, representing North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District; Congressman WILEY NICKEL, rep-

resenting North Carolina's 13th Congressional District; and Congressman JEFF JACKSON, representing North Carolina's 14th Congressional District.

All three of these Members have served their respective districts with devotion, with courage, and with conviction.

To my colleagues, I want them to know that it is a cruel injustice and a stain on the fabric of our democracy that we have to say goodbye to you today, but it is my privilege to highlight the good work that you have done here.

To Representative KATHY MANNING, who represents my hometown where I began my public service, I have appreciated our work together in the Greensboro community over the years and the most recent 4 years working on behalf of our community here in Congress. I was especially proud when she joined me to recognize the Greensboro Four earlier this year.

She has been a great partner on the Education and the Workforce Committee. Whether it has been about fighting for equal pay or protecting women's rights or improving our schools and universities, I have admired her courage and commitment, and I thank her.

To Representative WILEY NICKEL, I have appreciated his knowledge and experience on the Financial Services Committee. He demonstrates why expertise in finance is necessary in the U.S. Congress. With Shaw University, an HBCU in his district, he has helped develop policy proposals that really dig deep into the root causes of inequity and addresses them at the source.

Through the Supporting Diverse Entrepreneurs Act that we worked together on, students will be provided initial financing and expertise so young entrepreneurs can get to work starting businesses and growing our economy. I thank him. Our schools and young people are better for his service.

To Representative, now attorney general-elect JEFF JACKSON, it has been a joy to serve the people of Charlotte with him. We have delivered great community projects together, like Nourish Up's Hunger Hub to feed struggling families and The Umbrella Center, which will serve women and children who have experienced abuse. We can't forget the new main library for Mecklenburg County, which will provide a community center and access to books and critical services for years to come.

We have worked on housing issues together, like the American Neighborhoods Protection Act, and he has been a great model in my Mad Hatter's Annual Luncheon.

The people of North Carolina, Mr. Speaker, will be served well with our next attorney general, and we look forward to what he will accomplish.

North Carolina and our Nation have been well served by these three Members, and it has been my privilege to work alongside each of them.

Their seats were eliminated not by democracy but by the sinister forces of greed and corruption because of gerrymandering. There has been dangerous rhetoric in this Chamber about the sanctity and the validity of our elections, and I do want to acknowledge that while our elections are legitimate, that does not make them fair and it does not mean that our democracy is functioning as intended.

I say to my colleagues, Representatives MANNING, NICKEL, and JACKSON, I won't forget their service, and I won't forgive the process by which each of them has to leave this Chamber either.

While they may have taken them out of this fight, I know the fight hasn't been taken out of each of them.

Shirley Chisholm reminded us that service is the rent we pay for living on God's Earth.

My thanks to each of them for keeping their rent fully paid up. God bless them as they move forward.

□ 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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RECOGNIZING 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF PENN STATE CREW TEAM

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 30th anniversary of the Pennsylvania State University crew team.

This past Saturday, the team celebrated 30 years of commitment to the sport of rowing, the Penn State community, and continued excellence in the classroom.

Chartered in December 1994 by Coaches Colin Upson and Mike Dugan, the Penn State crew team began with 28 members and a concerning absence of rowing equipment.

Due to its lack of equipment and support, the team mainly trained on land, completing dry-land practices with the hope of a serious program guiding their efforts and passion.

The program's first full year, starting in the fall of 1995, consisted of fundraising efforts to purchase equipment. From selling concessions at home football games and cleaning Beaver Stadium, an eight-person used wooden boat was purchased.

In April of 1996, the team attended their first competition in Indianapolis where they joined the remainder of the Big Ten rowing teams at their conference championship.

Throughout the following seasons, from 1996 to 1998, the team's membership increased to over 100 male and female members. Most of this group consisted of novice rowers with little experience in a boat or on the water.

Expanded membership meant increased fundraising demands to keep up with the equipment needs. The large team numbers enabled the program to move into a bigger concession stand at Beaver Stadium, selling more clothing and food at all seven home games that season.

Thanks to the team's tireless fundraising efforts, their boat was finally paid off. By 1999, the club's annual budget was nearly \$35,000, with \$30,000 coming directly from team members' service to the community and fundraising efforts.

Over the following years, the program has swept podiums at national competitions and continues to excel both on the water and in the classroom.

In the fall of 2006, the men's four-man boat's 4th place finish at Head Of The Charles and women's four-man boat's 2nd place finish highlighted a successful season in addition to a strong recruiting class for both the varsity and the novice teams.

Thirty years later, the team is still committed to its original mission, following in the steps of its founders, Colin Upson and Mike Dugan.

Today, the complete fleet of boats now rests on trailers behind Beaver Stadium, near the humble beginnings of service upon which this program was built.

On any given day, you can find current team members waking up at 5:15 to complete dry-land workouts like their founders did years ago.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of its original members, the Pennsylvania State University crew team successfully maintains male and female competitive programs for novices, lightweights, and heavyweights.

The team remains committed to creating boats capable of competing at the highest possible levels and strives to actively promote the sport of rowing within the Penn State and Pennsylvania communities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize such an incredible program filled with so many passionate students and coaches. I congratulate them on 30 years and wish them the best of luck in their spring season as they continue representing the Pennsylvania State University, Penn State.

HAITIAN SECURITY AND
ECONOMIC SUPPORT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and speak on behalf of so many individuals, who do not have the ability to speak, to address a crisis in our hemisphere and a significant threat to American regional stability, our neighbor to the south and our ally from the inception of this country's birth, Haiti.

The elected government of Haiti collapsed some time ago, leaving gangs in control of the capital and raining chaos down upon the Haitian people.

Although Haiti holds the distinction of being the first republic of people of African descent and one of the oldest nations in the Americas, Haiti faces a significant and ongoing humanitarian crisis, overwhelmed by gangs that systematically endanger its democratic process.

Don't be fooled that this does not affect the United States. The persistent failed state situation is an open opportunity for America's adversaries to destabilize the Caribbean region and undermine the security of neighboring nations. We are seeing the outlines of malign actors, including those with whom we are in global competition.

Since President Jovenel Moise's assassination more than 3 years ago, gangs seized complete control, creating a humanitarian catastrophe that has left more than 12,000 people dead and forced nearly 800,000 from their homes. More than 5,000 people in Haiti have been killed by the gangs alone this year.

Just last weekend, more than 180 people were killed in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, as part of a multiday slaughter that was the result of a gang leader massacring older people and those he believed practiced Vodou as a personal vendetta to avenge his son's grave illness.

Without immediate support, the crisis in Haiti will worsen, the criminal network will expand, and Americans will suffer the consequences.

Haiti's Caribbean neighbors do not have the infrastructure or the capacity to accommodate this continued influx of refugees, which has seen hundreds of thousands of Haitian migrants at their borders seeking a safer place to live.

The Multinational Security Support Mission, led largely by officers from Kenya, has never received the support it needs to make an impact in the fight for the security and stability in Haiti. The mission is currently undermanned and underfunded. Many of our closest allies are not close to meeting their pledged obligations, nor have we in Congress given the resources that we said to advance the peace and prosperity of that nation.

In particular, let me single out France. Where is France?

Haiti has long suffered from the legacy of slavery and colonialism and the exploitation of resources by France. Upon winning a revolution, France, with our acquiescence, forced Haiti to pay \$28 billion as a debt for their freedom and lost revenues from slavery. France enslaved and trafficked those people, extracted many mountains of wealth from Haiti, and kept taking from the Haitian people long after those people had achieved their personal emancipation and national freedom from the country of France.

□ 1015

The nation of Haiti, with its past, current, and ongoing humanitarian crises, is a testament to the tragedy of that wealth extraction.

I urge our allies to join us in providing meaningful financial support, especially France, to advance stability and allow the people of Haiti to prosper. As I said earlier, the instability in Haiti is not only of humanitarian crisis, but a threat to our national security.

Our adversaries have already set their sights on expanding their reach to the United States' third border in the Caribbean. The continued expansion of Russian and Chinese influence, as well as military support in the region, threatens our national security, our prosperity, and our democratic values.

Depending on what Congress does or does not do will be what will happen to Haiti. The reauthorization of HOPE/HELP trade preference program will keep providing economic opportunities for Haiti.

The apparel sector is one of the last formal sectors of Haiti's economy and represents nearly 80 percent of Haiti's exports. They used to have 60,000 jobs in this area which have now dropped to 25,000.

Congress must act. We as Americans must act, if not just for the Haitian people, then for our own security.