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No. 188

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 18, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DALE W. STRONG 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.

HONORING HINSDALE VILLAGE PRESIDENT CAULEY ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the president of the Village of Hinsdale, Illinois, Thomas Cauley, Jr., who will be retiring at the end of this year.

President Cauley is currently serving his fourth term, and he previously served on the Village of Hinsdale's board for 2 years.

He is a graduate of the University of Illinois' College of Law. As a lawyer, he has had a successful career representing numerous entities and is now head of his own law firm.

As president of Hinsdale, he has played an essential role in ensuring its residents have a local government connected to the community and responsive to resident needs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank President Cauley for the critical work he has done to transform lives and honorably represent the Village of Hinsdale.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAVID C. PERRY

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month, I lost a friend, mentor, and man who cared about making Chicago and Chicagoland a better, more livable location, Dr. David C. Perry.

David was an urban planner who spent the last 12 years of his life leading the Great Cities Institute at the University of Illinois-Chicago and bridging the gap across academia, community, and practice.

When I enrolled in the master's in urban planning program at UIC, Professor Perry was one of my favorites. His belief in involving and informing communities to help address the problems they faced had an important impact on my professional development, and it is a concept I have consistently practiced as an elected official.

Professor Perry was a prolific writer who addressed topics such as economic development, race, politics, urban violence, and public infrastructure in American cities.

Professor Perry will be sorely missed. My wife and I are thinking about his wife, Judy, his children, and his grandchildren during this difficult time.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRED LEE ADAMS

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a great friend and community activist, Fred Lee Adams, who passed away on November 24.

Fred was born in segregated Mississippi in 1934 and later moved to Chicago. Having experienced the worst of Jim Crow growing up, Fred became an organizer looking to improve the conditions of his community in Chicago.

He became part of the Corkery Elementary School's Men's Club, a group of mentors who organized sports teams in the school in my neighborhood of Little Village in North Lawndale.

In 1982, Fred joined my friend and community leader Rudy Lozano and me as a member of the 22nd Ward Independent Political Organization, and he remained one of its core members. The following year, together, we worked to elect the first Black mayor of Chicago, Harold Washington.

Fred continued working to help elect Presidents, mayors, Governors, State senators, aldermen, and Congressmen until his death.

I believe some of the strongest brotherhoods are forged in the heat of fighting for our communities and in the struggle for social justice.

Fred L. Adams was my brother, and he will live in my memory forever.

HONORING PACE'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pace, the public transportation agency that provides bus and paratransit services in the Chicago metro area. For many in the suburbs, it is the only mode of transportation.

For four decades, Pace has been a vital part of our public transportation network in the region, offering safe and efficient services that connect communities, reduce traffic, and promote environmental sustainability.

As ridership surges to its highest levels since the pandemic, reaching more than 2 million riders in October, Pace is expanding service hours and frequency in Cook, DuPage, and Lake Counties.

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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As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and co-founder of the Future of Transportation Caucus, I believe that riders have the right to affordable and environmentally responsible transit options like Pace to get to their jobs, schools, and homes.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to Pace's future innovations, improvements, and expansion of services, and I congratulate them on their 40th anniversary.

RECOGNIZING MEMBERS LEAVING HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a few of my distinguished colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture. These colleagues have been invaluable teammates in our fight for America's farmers and ranchers, but they are also colleagues who will be moving on to other adventures next year.

First, the gentleman from Missouri, MARK ALFORD, representing the Fourth District, is a former news anchor and now the host of "MARK ALFORD's America" radio show. Congressman ALFORD is a megaphone for Missouri's number one industry, agriculture.

I was fortunate enough to visit the Missouri State Fair with Mr. ALFORD last year, and I know that he will continue to be a fighter for America's farmers and ranchers.

Next is Congresswoman LORI CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR from Oregon's First District. Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR graciously hosted the Agriculture Committee in her district for one of our farm bill listening sessions, which provided us with critical producer input crucial to the drafting of the committee's farm bill.

Tapped by President Trump to serve as the next Secretary of Labor, I know she will do great things, and I wish Congresswoman CHAVEZ-DEREMÉR the very best.

Congressman JOHN DUARTE brought his firsthand experience as a California farmer to our committee in a pivotal year for our Nation's farmers and ranchers. In what some have called a perfect poster child for the regulatory issues we need fixed, Mr. DUARTE came in the crosshairs of the Obama administration's regulatory state due to the overreaching "waters of the United States" definition.

In a way only possible in America, Mr. DUARTE ultimately earned a spot in Congress and a seat on the Agriculture Committee, where he was able to vote to rescind the Biden administration's flawed WOTUS rule. We will miss having him on our committee, and I wish him the best.

Next, Congressman MAX MILLER has been a real fighter for Ohio's agricultural industry. During his time on the committee, we traveled to listening

sessions together, and I joined his agricultural advisory board calls. He has been a constant champion for our producers. He even became a father.

As he leaves the Agriculture Committee, I know Mr. MILLER will continue to advocate for the Buckeye State's farmers through his work on the Ways and Means Committee.

From upstate New York's 19th District, Congressman MARC MOLINARO immediately brought a unique perspective to the Agriculture Committee. Too often, the Halls of Congress seem stuck in the ways of the past, but Mr. MOLINARO taught us to think differently. He was a fierce advocate for the farmers and producers from New York, and we will miss having him behind the dais.

I can't forget my friends on the other side of the aisle, either. The Agriculture Committee has a rich history of bipartisanship that started long before my chairmanship and will hopefully continue long into the future.

Congresswoman CARAVEO from Colorado's Eighth District, Congresswoman SLOTKIN from Michigan's Seventh District, and Congresswoman SPANBERGER from Virginia's Seventh District are bidding farewell to the Agriculture Committee. Each represented their diverse communities with distinction on our committee, and I want to wish each of them the very best.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my friend and brother in Christ, the current ranking member, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DAVID SCOTT), who is not retiring but rather stepping down as ranking member.

Since 2021, Congressman SCOTT has led the Democrats on the Agriculture Committee with distinction.

Agriculture really is not and never should be a partisan issue. In fact, it is one of the few that still unites Members from very different political backgrounds.

I am proud of the fact we have been able to find common ground on so many issues over the years. I look forward to continuing to work across the aisle with Mr. SCOTT, and I thank him for his service to the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of our colleagues for their contributions to American agriculture and wish them good luck in their next chapters.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE EARL BLUMENAUER

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

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, for many people across the country, their first introduction to Portland, Oregon, was the sketch comedy show "Portlandia." Like any parody, it exaggerates reality. Contrary to popular belief, most Portlanders don't spend their time asking about a chicken's backstory at a farm-to-table restaurant and sorting their recycling into 50 bins.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you firsthand that the City of Roses is a place where people care about the environment, where their food comes from, sustainable transportation, and inclusive communities. There is no better advocate and no truer representative of Portland than my good friend, colleague, and mentor, Congressman EARL BLUMENAUER.

EARL has been in public service for more than 50 years, 28 years here in Congress and 25 years in State and local government. He has devoted his career to making Oregon and the country more livable so individuals and families can be safe, healthy, and economically secure. As he has said, it is in his DNA to care about the community and to bring people together to accomplish a goal.

EARL came to Congress after a special election in April 1996 when RON WYDEN moved to the Senate in one of five special elections that year. On the Hill, people know EARL by his bow ties, bike pins, and annual comedy events, but to those of us who know him well, he is so much more.

EARL has a wide breadth of knowledge and extensive expertise gathered through his years in State and local government and now in Congress. When I went on a tour of the Library of Congress several years ago, I noticed how quiet and empty it was. When I asked if any Members of Congress actually use the Library, my tour guide asked: Do you know EARL BLUMENAUER?

That is EARL. As former Congressman Peter DeFazio remarked, EARL goes to people with facts, and he goes back to them with facts, and he tries to wear them down.

EARL can be very convincing. He is a long-term thinker, a skill that is sometimes in short supply in the policymaking arena, and a quintessential policy wonk.

EARL's vision and tireless work have made real, game-changing progress for his hometown of Portland and for our State, for the region, for the Nation, and, in fact, around the world. He has been a key part of promoting curbside recycling; investing in bike and pedestrian infrastructure; advocating for animal welfare, transit, and water infrastructure; supporting Afghan interpreters; changing the regulatory structure of cannabis; reimagining food policy; and more.

EARL always seeks to share what he knows. As a Portland city commissioner, EARL wanted to provide a way for Portland residents to engage constructively with the transportation system, so he created an evening class to give people the opportunity to learn about the system and suggest changes, a program that continues to this day at Portland State University.

When new Members come to Congress, EARL welcomes them with a gift, a very thorough, multipage letter sharing some of his lessons and some of the knowledge that he has absorbed throughout his service. I came back to