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No. 62

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARNAHAN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 27, 2009.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUSS CARNAHAN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 6, 2009, 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 each party limited to 30 minutes and each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, limited to 5 minutes.

### MOUNT CARMEL SCHOOL COMPETING IN THE WE THE PEOPLE: THE CITIZENS AND THE CONSTITUTION NATIONAL FINALS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to acknowledge an accomplished, dedicated group of students from my district. They are from Mount Carmel School on the island of Saipan in the Northern Mariana Islands, and they're here in Washington participating in the 22nd We the People: The

Citizens and the Constitution National Finals. The program is funded by Congress through the Education for Democracy Act and administered by the Center For Civic Education, based in Los Angeles and in Washington.

Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. One thousand one hundred of them earned the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional districts and States. Today the top 10 groups compete in the championship round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

In the competition, students serve as expert witnesses, testifying on constitutional issues as if in a congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday I heard these students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents, and they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court justices, university scholars, attorneys and journalists.

The Mount Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by competing against other schools in my congressional district. They succeeded because they worked together and because each one of them gave their individual best for their team.

I'd like to recognize them by name. Alfred Acosta, Kevin Bautista, Jalayne Benavente, Keolester Buenpacifico, Armalen Cabrerros, Lourence Camacho, Cedic Chan, Augustine Chang, Hazel Doctor, Chiaki Hiroswawa, Kevin Kim, Su Yoon Lee, Daniel Macario, Ryan Ortizo, Vanessa Sablan, Keno San

Pablo, Jonathan Sanchez, Louise Villagomez, Rita Villagomez, A. Ram Yoo.

I'd also like to acknowledge their teacher, Mr. Rosiky Camacho, their attorney coaches Joaquin Deleon Guerrero Torres, Judy Deleon Guerrero Torres, Vince Deleon Guerrero Torres and their coordinator Mr. Alfred Ada.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge an accomplished and dedicated group of students from my district.

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Each year high school students around the Nation take part in a rigorous course of study to prepare themselves for We the People. 1,100 of them earn the right to come to Washington for the finals, which began over the weekend, by competing against other schools in their congressional district and States. Today, the top 10 groups compete in the Championship Round right here in the Cannon House Office Building.

At the closing banquet this evening Vermont Senator PATRICK LEAHY will be honored with the 2009 Dale E. Kildee Civitas Award for his contributions to the field of civic education.

In the competition students serve as expert witnesses testifying on constitutional issues as if at a Congressional hearing. They are scored on their opening statements and on their answers to follow-up questions.

Yesterday, I heard these Mt. Carmel students speak with knowledge and insight about our Constitution and Bill of Rights. They were impressively well-versed in the historical and philosophical antecedents of these profound documents. And they were able to field the most complex questions on these issues from panels of State Supreme Court Justices, university scholars, attorneys, and journalists.

The Mt. Carmel students earned the right to represent the Northern Mariana Islands by

☐ 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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