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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. JENKINS of West Virginia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 27, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EVAN H. JENKINS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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 1 hour 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.

REMEMBERING PRINCE

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

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember somebody of unquestionable talent, somebody who appealed to and spoke to people of all types, ages, and cliques, and somebody who also never stopped finding different ways of expressing coolness.

Of course, I am speaking of Minnesota's native son, Prince, who tragically passed away this last week in Chanhassen, my hometown.

Prince was the personification of limitless ability and creativity, and, even better for Minnesotans, he was one of us.

For me, the music of Prince was intertwined with growing up in Chanhassen. I remember spending time with high school friends after a football game or a soccer game. We would take the time to actually drive up his driveway, which we thought was kind of fascinating. We would head over to his house. We were a little entranced with his simple, purple, split-level house.

The fact that the man responsible for some of our favorite songs and music was living right in our backyard seemed actually too good to be true.

I remember my very first concert I went to was also Prince on his Purple Rain Tour back in 1984 at the St. Paul Civic Center.

To hear his contemporaries tell the story, Prince's guitar playing simply was indescribable. If the best musicians of our day can't find the words to express how talented he really was, I certainly can't find a way to express the skill that he possessed.

Of course, he was much more than his guitar playing. He could also sing and play numerous other instruments and write hit after hit. But what inspires so many is that it shows that greatness lives within us.

Prince grew up in Minneapolis. He didn't have any formal classical musical training at an elite school, but he did rise to the top of the music world and never looked back.

Even with all the stories that we have heard over the past several days and week about the greatness of Prince, more inspiring are the stories of him extending a helping hand to help lift others up in times of need, stories of how he was very active in our community.

Just a few weeks before he passed away, he played a very surprise show

with friends at the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, a very popular venue and Minnesota favorite, where I worked as a high school busboy.

Day after day we are hearing stories now of donations to schools, to different causes and, of course, to people. Those are the folks that Prince made happy in terms of their time of need. Prince had a giving heart.

Ultimately, it is for these reasons that we have seen the outpouring of grief from around Minnesota, from around the country, and also from around the world.

As we continue to remember Prince, the man, and his music, it is his words from one of his earliest top hits, "1999," that helps put things in perspective. He says: "But life is just a party, and parties weren't meant to last."

While his party has certainly sadly come to an end, these lyrics remind us each and every day to live those days to the fullest and to set out to achieve great things.

We will miss Prince Rogers Nelson. May he rest in peace.

UNGASS REFLECTIONS

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to be an official observer at the United Nations as they had a special meeting dealing with the international war on drugs.

Much has happened since President Clinton addressed the Global Drug Summit at the United Nations in 1998, carrying the American war on drugs to the international stage. But this, in my mind, solidified the need for us to reset these failed drug policies.

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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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People across the political spectrum now agree that this approach to drug policy is flawed and ineffective. We have spent over \$1 trillion on this effort over the years.

We have undermined countries in Latin America and helped unleash an unprecedented wave of violence in Mexico, killing tens of thousands of people in the drug wars.

Yet, despite all the effort, all the money, drugs are still widely available in the United States, actually less expensive than before we started. We seem unable to even keep drugs out of our own prisons.

America's failure to deal with harm reduction, treatment, and prevention has helped lead to the epidemic of opioid addiction and death. In 2013 alone, we lost 20,000 people to prescription drug overdose.

As people get hooked on amazingly over-prescribed prescription drugs, it leads to heroin addiction when they substitute it when they can no longer get access to opioids.

Now, it is interesting that some of the countries that have been most devastated by this war on drugs, in dealing with the international cartels—Mexico, Colombia, Guatemala—were there at the United Nations leading the charge for a different approach.

Many of the presentations that I witnessed were suggestions to the Outcome Document, with the common theme that it did not go far enough in reforming the path forward.

Calls for harm reduction, greater access to treatment, and fighting the barbaric practice of executing drug offenders energized that consensus.

Now, America was on the sidelines. America was not calling for adjustment and change in reform. We were sort of between those more progressive forces, including those countries that have really been in the throes of the drug wars.

And then there is Iran and China and Russia, and we were sort of floating in between. It is kind of embarrassing, as an American, to see the United States not leading.

I come back to Washington, D.C., more committed than ever for the new administration and the next Congress to be a voice of reform to change these failed policies.

We need to put an end to the mindless military action and hard-edged policies that fail and replace them with policies that will make a difference, saving lives, and having effective regulations as tools.

Now, the United States is moving ahead at reform at the State and local levels. Forty States now provide some access to medical marijuana. Four States and the District of Columbia deal with adult use, and there will be four or five more States that will join this year.

In 2019, when we go back to the United Nations, hopefully to be able to make some of these reforms, the world is going to look different.

First of all, there are moves in both Canada and Mexico to expand the use of medical marijuana and to legalize adult use.

In 2019, virtually every American will have a legal access to medical marijuana, and we will continue the action at the State level, making those critical changes. Public opinion, once and for all, will be settled in favor of regulation, taxation, and responsible adult use.

We will break the shackles of research on marijuana, where the Federal Government actually gets in the way of being able to have the information that the scientists and doctors can produce to settle the question so we don't have to guess.

I am hopeful that the United States will be on the right side of reform, that we will stop expensive and regressive policies that don't work, and that we will be able to respond to the emerging American consensus of the people at the State and local levels to do it better. This is one effort we can't afford to fail.

RECOGNIZING THE OUTSTANDING WORK OF ILLINIPAC

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of IlliniPAC, a group of students on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus who are making a positive and important impact through their pro-Israel advocacy.

IlliniPAC is focused on building bridges throughout the student community and educating fellow students of all backgrounds about Israel.

At a time when there are so many concerted efforts to promote myths and terrible mistruths about Israel, the student leaders of IlliniPAC have stepped forward with a positive message to highlight the importance of a strong and bipartisan U.S.-Israel relationship.

I particularly want to commend IlliniPAC for its proactive and constructive efforts to oppose misguided calls to promote boycotts, divestment, and sanctioning, otherwise known as BDS, against Israel.

As the sponsor of the bipartisan Combating BDS Act of 2016 in Congress, I greatly appreciate the efforts by IlliniPAC to oppose BDS campaigns targeting Israel. These BDS campaigns perpetuate damaging falsehoods against Israel only to serve to divide and separate students on campus.

The truth is that the BDS movement has neither brought Israelis and Palestinians closer to peace nor advanced the laudable goal of improving dialogue between supporters of both sides. Instead, the BDS movement has simply been employed as a hateful weapon to delegitimize Israel and those who stand with her.

Once again I would like to thank IlliniPAC for taking a leadership role

on campus and for the work that they do to spread the positive message about Israel, an oasis of freedom, democracy, and tolerance in one of the world's most volatile regions.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2016

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we in the House of Representatives passed the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2016.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important bipartisan effort to protect our Great Lakes. I believe that, when it comes to our environment, we must all work together to strengthen conservation programs and other policies that protect our natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am fortunate to represent Illinois' 10th Congressional District, which borders one of our Nation's greatest treasures, Lake Michigan. Lake Michigan offers miles of beachfronts, natural habitats, recreational space for all of those that visit her, as well as drinking water for millions.

As a scoutmaster, I teach my Scouts that we should always leave or strive to leave areas better than when we found them. Reauthorizing the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for the next 5 years will help us fulfill this goal with Lake Michigan.

I now urge the United States Senate to immediately take up and pass this legislation. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative was introduced in the Senate by my friend and colleague, Senator MARK KIRK, who has been a fierce advocate for protecting Lake Michigan throughout his 15-year career representing the people of Illinois.

Working together, we can protect our country's greater natural resources for future generations to enjoy.

CONGRATULATING SHERRI RUKES

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Sherri Rukes, who was awarded the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Golden Apple Foundation.

Ms. Rukes has been an AP chemistry teacher at Libertyville High School for 19 years. She also was the coach of the robotics team and volunteers with the science Olympiad and math team.

The Golden Apple is awarded to the best teachers in the entire country, and Ms. Rukes is very deserving of this prestigious recognition. Her innovation and passion for teaching have made her an outstanding teacher who has bettered the lives of every student who entered her classroom.

Ms. Rukes plays an important role in educating and preparing our future leaders for success. I am happy to know that our students are getting the outstanding education they need and deserve when they step into her class.

I offer my congratulations to Ms. Rukes and to Libertyville High School for this well-deserved recognition.