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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. MARSHALL).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

November 1, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROGER W. MARSHALL 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 3, 2017, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

CONGRATULATING MICHELLE BAUER

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, I congratulated St. Marys Area High School student Michelle Bauer on winning first place in the 34th annual Pennsylvania Municipal League high school essay contest.

Participants were asked to reflect on the theme "Civics and You" by writing

about opportunities in their community that allow for civic engagement and encourage citizens to volunteer to help with local challenges.

Today, I would like to share a portion of Michelle's essay:

"When I hear the word 'civic,' I think of governmental duties. I understand my duty as an American citizen to vote, obey laws, pay taxes, and serve on juries. These activities all involve one person: yourself. In reality, our civic engagement as Americans expands beyond a single individual and encompasses entire communities. The definition of a civic engagement is an activity that includes both paid and unpaid forms of political activism, environmentalism, and service. As I look at my community, it is apparent that we have a lot of civic engagements.

"As with most towns, mine has a city council that holds meetings and elections for positions on the council. These elections are open to every member of the city and are an excellent way for citizens to have a say in the politics of the town. Just as the elections are open to all citizens so are the weekly meetings. A unique feature about my town's council meetings is that they are televised on a local channel. For individuals who are unable to physically be present at the meeting or have commitments that require attention, this televised version provides a perfect solution to keep abreast of the issues affecting our citizens.

"Along with a local city council, it is also a civic duty of individuals in my community to vote and participate in elections and meetings at the school district level. Anyone is able to run for a position on the school board as well as attend the meetings. For me, our school board is a great way of civic involvement because the board is interested in new opportunities that can be incorporated into the education of our youth. Just recently, I attended a

board meeting where the topic of robots was discussed. As a member of a small competition group, we were able to present our success and the benefit of curriculum that includes new technology. One month later, it was announced that a robotics class will be offered in the upcoming school year. This will allow even more students to enhance their education and perhaps encourage new career choices.

"In my community, the civic engagements do not stop on the political level. One of the most prominent forms of civic engagement I see in my community that is not related to politics is the placing of wreaths on the grave-stones of fallen soldiers for Memorial Day. Citizens from all over town come together the weekend before Memorial Day and walk through the entire cemetery adorning and honoring the heroes of our country. This event is not for publicity or money but instead is for respecting our veterans. Additionally, it is for the betterment of our community by presenting a beautiful scene to those passing by."

Michelle goes on to write:

"Onlookers can also be mesmerized by the beauty of the mountainous rural area. Unfortunately, garbage and litter on the side of roads and highways is so commonplace that most individuals do not even do a double-take when they see it. The highway through my town is an area where individuals think it is acceptable to throw garbage out of their vehicles or litter the sides of the road with cigarette butts and wrappers. For the past 7 years, I have been a part of the National Honor Society highway cleanup. Every spring and fall, the society walks the sides of the roads picking up trash and making our town look beautiful."

Mr. Speaker, this is just a portion of Michelle's essay, and I include in the RECORD the full essay.

□ 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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34TH ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY CONTEST WINNER
1ST PLACE HIGH SCHOOL ESSAY WINNER:
MICHELLE BAUER—ST. MARYS AREA HIGH SCHOOL

When I hear the word civic, I think of governmental duties. I understand my duty as an American citizen to vote, obey laws, pay taxes, and serve on juries. These activities all involve one person: yourself. In reality, our civic engagement as Americans expands beyond a single individual and encompasses entire communities. The definition of a civic engagement is an activity that includes both paid and unpaid forms of political activism, environmentalism, and service. As I look at my community, it is apparent that we have a lot of civic engagements.

As with most towns, mine has a city council that holds meetings and elections for positions on the council. These elections are open to every member of the city and are an excellent way for citizens to have a say in the politics of the town. Just as the elections are open to all citizens so are the weekly meetings. A unique feature about my town's council meetings is that they are televised on a local channel. For individuals who are unable to physically be present at the meeting or have commitments that require attention, this televised version provides a perfect solution to keep abreast of the issues affecting our citizens.

Along with a local city council, it is also a civic duty of individuals in my community to vote and participate in elections and meetings at the school district level. Anyone is able to run for a position on the school board as well as attend the meetings. For me, our school board is a great way for civic involvement because the board is interested in new opportunities that can be incorporated into the education of our youth. Just recently, I attended a board meeting where the topic of robots was discussed. As a member of a small competition group, we were able to present our success and the benefit of curriculum that includes new technology. One month later, it was announced that a robotics class will be offered in the upcoming school year. This will allow even more students to enhance their education and perhaps encourage new career choices.

In my community, the civic engagements do not stop on the political level. One of the most prominent forms of civic engagement I see in my community that is not related to politics is the placing of wreaths on the gravestones of fallen soldiers for Memorial Day. Citizens from all over town come together the weekend before Memorial Day and walk through the entire cemetery adorning and honoring the heroes of our country. This event is not for publicity or money but instead is for respecting our veterans. Additionally, it is for the betterment of our community by presenting a beautiful scene to those passing by.

Onlookers can also be mesmerized by the beauty of the mountainous rural area. Unfortunately, garbage and litter on the side of roads and highways is so commonplace that most individuals do not even do a double-take when they see it. The highway through my town is an area where individuals think it is acceptable to throw garbage out of their vehicles or litter the sides of the road with cigarette butts and wrappers. For the past seven years, I have been a part of the National Honor Society highway cleanup. Every spring and fall, the society walks the sides of the roads picking up trash and making our town look beautiful.

Volunteering to pick up the litter is not the only way to carry out civic responsibility. Everybody has either witnessed or directly experienced an accident or fire that

required the assistance of a fire department. The fire department is a critical part of a city keeping fires at bay and lending a hand wherever needed. In my community, these people work tirelessly day in and day out for the good of the community. Much of their assistance is not what would be depicted as heroic but rather, responding to flooding issues, weather related emergencies, traffic control, helicopter landing zones, and searching for missing hunters in addition to the rescue and fire calls. They are all volunteers that give up their precious time as a civic duty to their community without expecting recognition. We, the rest of the community, have a duty to help support these people. One of the best ways to do this is to attend their pancake breakfasts that are used as a fundraiser. I am not a huge fan of pancakes and sausage so instead of helping the firefighters out by purchasing a meal, I volunteer to serve the meals to customers. It is the civic duty of individuals in my city to attend this pancake breakfast and show support to the members of this department who tirelessly serve and assist us.

Reporting for standby at a yearly event in July is another aspect of service that our firefighters join their community for. There are loud BOOMS echoing across the city and suddenly bright orbs of colorful lights bursting in the sky. This grand spectacle entrances onlookers for half an hour with its bright lights and fun designs. A Fourth of July fireworks display like this costs money. Every year, our city struggles to come up with the funds needed to purchase fireworks. Businesses around the town make it their civic duty to help by setting out donation cans in their businesses. The local Dairy Queen even has a day where 30% of the profits from every blizzard purchased go to the city fireworks fund. As citizens in the community, it is our duty to go to Dairy Queen on this day and purchase a blizzard as well as make donations in the cans set up at local businesses. Eating ice cream is certainly an enjoyable way to carry out a civic duty. The July show has been an important part of our community for many years thanks to the numerous supporters.

We have many such events traced back in our records. Local history is like the heart of the human body. It shapes us, powers our being, and makes us unique. Without history, individuals would not even be alive. A great example would be the Forty-Second Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment (Bucktails) who were part of the Civil War. These rugged woodsmen were skilled marksmen and ideally suited to the challenges of battle. Stories say that this group was so influential in fighting the war at Gettysburg that the entire outcome could have been different without them. The grit and determination of our local ancestors remains in current day lineage within our community. By knowing local history, members of the community have a sense of pride and can even feel at ease understanding that future generations will uphold the same virtues. My town has a Historical Society that is free to enter and accepts donations of local artifacts and history. As a member of the community, it is my civic engagement to donate any pieces of history I have so that others may benefit from it as well. It is also the duty of our community to visit the Historical Society and learn about our heritage and how we can use the skills of our people to better our society just like the Bucktails did in the Civil War.

Civic engagements are abundant in our community. From the local fireman's pancake breakfast to the city council meetings, civic activities are occurring all around us. It is the obligation of the citizens to engage in these activities to assist with local chal-

lenges and create a better community for all of its members.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.
Mr. Speaker, I will close with her final paragraph:

"Civic engagements are abundant in our community. From the local fireman's pancake breakfast to the city council meetings, civic activities are occurring all around us. It is the obligation of the citizens to engage in these activities to assist with local challenges and create a better community for all of its members."

Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree more.

DOWN SYNDROME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee had a most remarkable hearing on Down syndrome, which moved us to a new understanding of this disability.

DS is a genetic disorder that affects over 300,000 men, women, and children in America. It is the most common chromosomal disorder and the most frequent genetic cause of learning disabilities in children.

Each year, approximately 6,000 babies in the United States are born with Down syndrome, a condition resulting from an extra 21st chromosome. Sixty years ago, people with DS had a life expectancy of less than 20 years, and most lived their lives in institutions. Today, due to early medical care and being raised in loving homes, these children can expect to live well into their sixties.

Last week's hearing was one of the most emotionally charged and inspirational hearings I can recall as a member of this subcommittee. The room was filled with children and adults with DS and their families, including my young constituent, Jose Cisneros. Amidst the tears, laughter, and applause, we heard inspiring stories about the amazing accomplishments of DS teens and young adults in sports, scouting, community activism, and film acting.

We learned that they are graduating from high schools, attending colleges, and working at jobs in their communities.

And, most importantly, we saw how these young Americans are teaching our country about the value of diversity and inclusion, while at the same time increasing the happiness quotients of those lucky enough to be in their very wide circle of friends.

We also learned some very surprising and amazing facts about Down syndrome. Researchers told us that individuals with DS are medically very special. On the one hand, they are highly predisposed to autoimmune disorders such as thyroid disease and rheumatoid arthritis; children with DS are 50 times more likely to develop