

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

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Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member LOFGREN for yielding me the time to speak on behalf of my bill, H.R. 1735, and I thank so much my colleague, Representative BAIRD, for his tireless efforts to help us get this across the finish line.

It is past time that America's K-12 students enter the 21st century, and this Mathematical and Statistical Modeling Education Act is a bipartisan bill that will help with that and will direct \$10 million in funding, importantly, funding that is already appropriated to the National Science Foundation, toward grant programs, and it will support the modernization of mathematical and statistical modeling education across this fine Nation.

As someone who is educated as a systems engineer, with both undergraduate and graduate degrees, which focused on things like operations research and linear programming and statistical modeling, I have had the privilege of using all of these kinds of maths all during my career and life.

Also, as a former high school chemistry teacher, I saw firsthand that many of my students struggled because they lacked the basic foundations in math that are necessary to succeed in the sciences, and frankly, to succeed in our economy.

These math skills form the basis of all the STEM disciplines, and importantly, they also form the basis of critical thinking and problem-solving as well. Without them, students struggle to keep up, let alone to get ahead not just in math and science but ultimately in our competitive workplace and world.

The National Assessment of Educational Progress, which is colloquially known as the Nation's report card, has shown that this is a national challenge. The most recent assessment registered the very largest declines in math scores since we first started assessing them in 1990. The scores of our average fourth graders were down five points. Worse, the average score of our eighth graders recorded an eight-point lower assessment than the last time.

As our students are continuing to recover from the pandemic, now particularly is a very good time to focus on a renewed and modified investment in math and STEM education and skills.

If our students can't get ahead in school, how will they get ahead in the STEM workforce as engineers, as chemists, as nurses, as doctors, and so much more?

As importantly, how will those who do not pursue STEM fields succeed where these same kinds of skills are very, very useful in things such as the trades and manufacturing or any other job in industry?

Thankfully, schools across the country are already developing new tools

and curricula to better connect students and help them learn these challenging topics.

It is crucial though that the Federal Government deliver its financial support to schools that are already leading this effort and that want to in the future.

My colleagues also supported an amendment to the bill ensuring that this funding is broadly available, so students can benefit from it no matter what kind of school they go to. Their adjustment made sure that schools which are private, faith-based, or homeschools also have access to this funding.

I also want to highlight that this funding is all drawn from funds that are already appropriated to the National Science Foundation. This legislation does not represent any new funding authorizations or authorities. It is simply ensuring that the NSF is able to spend the money it already receives to bolster innovation in this very important area.

This bill will go a long way towards providing our very youngest people with the skills that they need to succeed in today's marketplace. It passed with a strong bipartisan majority in the 117th Congress and was passed unanimously out of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology last year in this Congress as well.

I once again thank my Republican colleague, Mr. BAIRD, for his work on this legislation. I also extend my deep appreciation to the SST staff and committee who have helped to shepherd this legislation through today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this very commonsense, bipartisan measure.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time. I would just like to once again thank Congresswoman HOULAHAN, Dr. Baird, and I also thank the chairman. We have had a great run here in the Science Committee this evening with these terrific bills, which I urge all Members to support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I encourage my colleagues to vote for this awesome bill worked on in a very productive fashion by our colleagues.

I would note, Mr. Speaker, we have had a very productive session in the 118th Congress. I thought under the previous committee leadership the two previous sessions it would be hard to beat, but we have accomplished a lot, and we have laid the groundwork for whatever remains of the 118th to tie up a whole bunch of loose ends. That is a testament to the gentlewoman and her staff, and I think to my staff and my colleagues on my side of the room.

The issues we work on, as the gentlewoman and I have discussed many times, are not just today and tomorrow.

It is 50 years, it is 150 years, it is 500 years from now, the net effect.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1735, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMISSION TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF THE WEITZMAN NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION ACT

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7764) to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7764

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution Act".

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Commission to Study the Potential Transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Commission").

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Commission shall be composed of 8 members, of whom—

(1) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate;

(2) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(3) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate; and

(4) 2 voting members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives.

(c) QUALIFICATION.—Members of the Commission shall be appointed to the Commission from among individuals, or representatives of institutions or entities, who possess—

(1)(A) a demonstrated commitment to the research, study, or promotion of Jewish American history, art, political or economic status, or culture; and

(B)(i) expertise in museum administration;

(ii) expertise in fund-raising for nonprofit or cultural institutions;

(iii) experience in the study and teaching of Jewish American history;

(iv) experience in the study and teaching of combating and countering antisemitism;

(v) experience in studying the issue of the representation of Jewish Americans in art, life, history, and culture at the Smithsonian Institution; or

(vi) extensive experience in public or elected service;

(2) experience in the administration of, or the strategic planning for, museums; or

(3) experience in the planning or design of museum facilities.

(d) **DEADLINE FOR INITIAL APPOINTMENT.**—The initial members of the Commission shall be appointed not later than the date that is 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(f) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall, by majority vote of all of the voting members, select 1 member of the Commission to serve as the Chairperson of the Commission.

(g) **PROHIBITION.**—No employee of the Federal Government may serve as a member of the Commission.

SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

(a) **REPORTS AND OTHER DELIVERABLES.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of the first meeting of the Commission, the Commission shall submit to the President and to Congress the report, plan, and recommendations described in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(1) **REPORT ON ISSUES.**—A report that addresses the following issues relating to the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia, PA, and its environs (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Museum”):

(A) The collections held by the Museum at the time of the report, the extent to which such collections are already represented in the Smithsonian Institution and Federal memorials at the time of the report, and the availability and cost of future collections to be acquired and housed in the Museum.

(B) The impact of the Museum on educational and governmental efforts to study and counter antisemitism.

(C) The financial assets and liabilities held by the Museum, and the cost of operating and maintaining the Museum.

(D) The governance and organizational structure from which the Museum should operate if transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

(E) The financial and legal considerations associated with the potential transfer of the Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, including—

(i) any donor or legal restrictions on the Museum’s collections, endowments, and real estate;

(ii) costs associated with actions that will be necessary to resolve the status of employees of the Museum, if the Museum is transferred to the Smithsonian Institution; and

(iii) all additional costs for the Smithsonian Institution that would be associated with operating and maintaining a new museum outside of the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

(F) The feasibility of the Museum becoming part of the Smithsonian Institution, taking into account the Museum’s potential impact on the Smithsonian’s existing facilities maintenance backlog, collections storage needs, and identified construction or renovation costs for new or existing museums.

(2) **FUND-RAISING PLAN.**—A fund-raising plan that addresses the following topics:

(A) The ability to support the transfer, operation, and maintenance of the Museum through contributions from the public, including potential charges for admission.

(B) Any potential issues with funding the operations and maintenance of the Museum in perpetuity without reliance on appropriations of Federal funds.

(3) **LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.**—A report containing recommendations regarding a legislative plan for transferring the Museum to the Smithsonian Institution, which shall include each of the following:

(A) Proposals regarding the time frame, one-time appropriations level, and continuing appropriations levels that might be included in such legislation.

(B) Recommendations for the future name of the Museum if it is transferred to the Smithsonian Institution.

(b) **NATIONAL CONFERENCE.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the initial members of the Commission are appointed under section 2, the Commission may, in carrying out the duties of the Commission under this section, convene a national conference relating to the Museum, to be comprised of individuals committed to the advancement of the life, art, history, and culture of Jewish Americans.

SEC. 4. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) **COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A member of the Commission—

(A) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Commission; and

(B) shall serve without pay.

(2) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—A member of the Commission shall be allowed a per diem allowance for travel expenses, at rates consistent with those authorized under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) **GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVICES.**—The Commission may solicit, accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests, or devises of money, services, or real or personal property for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the Commission. Such gifts, bequests, or devises may be from the Museum.

(b) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date on which the final versions of the report, plan, and recommendations required under section 3 are submitted.

(c) **FUNDING.**—The Commission shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the Commission.

(d) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF OF COMMISSION.**—

(1) **DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission may employ and compensate an executive director and any other additional personnel that are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(B) **RATES OF PAY.**—Rates of pay for persons employed under subparagraph (A) shall be consistent with the rates of pay allowed for employees of a temporary organization under section 3161 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **NOT FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT.**—Any individual employed under this subsection shall not be considered a Federal employee for the purpose of any law governing Federal employment.

(3) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subparagraph (B), on request of the Commission, the head of a Federal agency shall provide technical assistance to the Commission.

(B) **PROHIBITION.**—No Federal employees may be detailed to the Commission.

(4) **VOLUNTEER SERVICES.**—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission may accept and use voluntary and uncompensated services as the Commission determines necessary.

(e) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon request of the Commission, the Administrator of the General Services Administration shall provide to the Commission, on a reimbursable basis, the administrative support services necessary for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under this Act. The involvement of the General Services Administration shall be limited to providing administrative support to the Commission, and such involvement shall terminate upon termination of the Commission.

(f) **MEETING LOCATION.**—The Commission may meet virtually or in-person.

(g) **APPOINTMENT DELAYS.**—The Commission may begin to meet and carry out activities under this Act before all members of the Commission have been appointed if—

(1) 90 days have passed since the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) a majority of the members of the Commission have been appointed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on bill H.R. 7746.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, pervasive anti-Israel bias has infected our country. Anti-Semitism is on the rise and threatens the safety of all communities and institutions.

Let me be clear. Anti-Semitism has no place in America.

Israel is in a fight for its very existence from the terrorist threat of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iran. I strongly support our ally Israel and our Jewish friends.

In the Middle East, our friends in Israel need our support. The Anti-Defamation League has cited nearly 8,900 anti-Semitic incidents in the United States that occurred last year.

Now more than ever, we must ensure that as many Americans as possible are informed about the many contributions of Jewish Americans and their history.

Today, the House must pass H.R. 7764, the commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

The legislation creates a commission to study the transferring of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

This legislation establishes logistical details to make this transfer a reality, including a fundraising plan. The bill could not be more important than right now.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 7764, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7764, as amended. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin, my friend, the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, Mr. STEIL, for his great work and the work of the staff.

This bipartisan bill will establish a commission to study the potential transfer of Philadelphia’s Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

Since 1654, when Jews first sought refuge from persecution in the New World, Jewish Americans have contributed to our Nation in countless ways.

They have served at the highest levels of government, won Nobel Prizes, created enduring works of art and literature, and stood at the forefront of nearly every struggle for civil rights and equality in this country.

That legacy extends to my own district in Rochester, New York, where Jewish Americans have been a vital part of our community since before the Civil War.

In the mid-19th century, they built our first synagogue. When the financial crisis of 1857 threatened to devastate Rochester's economy, the Jewish-American garment industry employed scores of residents and helped keep our city afloat.

Today, from the towns of Brighton and Pittsford to Irondequoit and the city of Rochester, Jewish Americans remain an irreplaceable part of our daily lives.

It pains me to see that anti-Semitism in the United States has surged to what the FBI Director has described as "historic levels."

This hatred has been fueled by the villainization of Jewish Americans after the October 7 terrorist attacks, as well as the alarming growth of racism, extremism, and white supremacy across the Nation.

One of the most troubling aspects of this trend is the rise of anti-Semitism among younger generations. For the first time since the Anti-Defamation League began its comprehensive study on anti-Semitism in 1964, these attitudes are now more prevalent among younger people than among older generations.

The ADL also found that 73 percent of Jewish college students have experienced or witnessed anti-Semitism since the beginning of the 2023-2024 school year and that the number of students who feel comfortable with others knowing that they are Jewish has nearly been cut in half since the October 7 attack.

We must do more to show the invaluable role Jewish Americans have played in our national story and to inoculate people, some of whom are probably well-intentioned, against anti-Semitic stereotypes and online conspiracy theories.

For these reasons and more, now is the time for the Smithsonian to explore adding an American Jewish history museum to its roster.

As the Nation's preeminent institution dedicated to American Jewish history, the Weitzman National Museum should be seriously considered as a turnkey, cost-effective option.

An exhibit at the Weitzman National Museum showcases a 1790 letter from President George Washington to a Rhode Island synagogue in which he became the first leader of a modern nation to recognize Jews as full citizens.

We still have work to do to fully honor the spirit of President Washington's words.

I can think of few better ways to make progress than by bringing the

Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History under the Smithsonian umbrella.

This bill is an important first step, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the author of this bill.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding and for his strong support of this legislation and his poignant and important words. I thank him for taking the time to go into some detail about the experience of his own Jewish community in his Congressional District.

I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 7764, to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

I also thank Representatives TURNER, BOYLE, and MAX MILLER for joining me in leading this bill, and of course, I thank Chairman STEIL and the ranking member for prioritizing it and getting it through unanimously in the Committee on House Administration.

Last year, ADL tracked a 140-percent increase in anti-Semitic incidents from the previous year resulting in a record high since ADL began tracking these instances of hate almost 50 years ago.

According to the American Jewish Committee, nearly two-thirds of American Jews feel less secure in the U.S. than they did a year ago.

To combat the rising hate, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS developed our country's first ever National Strategy to Counter Anti-Semitism. The strategy notes that we cannot address the root causes of anti-Semitism without awareness and education.

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With anti-Semitism skyrocketing, acknowledging the past and acting to build a better tomorrow is more critical than ever.

It will take a whole-of-society effort to do this, and folding the Weitzman National Museum of Jewish History into the Smithsonian is one step toward that goal.

We must uplift Jewish stories and raise awareness of the contributions of Jewish Americans throughout our Nation's history, which the Weitzman does every day.

Taking this critical step to welcome the Weitzman Museum into the larger Smithsonian family would help us share those achievements with the American people from all over the country as its mission is to educate visitors and online audiences about who Jews are and how they contributed to our country.

The museum develops critical in-person and online educational program-

ming, provides professional development for educators, and produces award-winning special and traveling exhibits.

However, its ability to reach a national audience is limited, which is why the best way to amplify its resources is to incorporate it into the Smithsonian Institution.

This powerful institutional integration signals a strong commitment to address the dramatic rise in anti-Semitism. It does that by helping amplify the myriad ways Jewish Americans enrich our Nation.

We need all Americans alike to learn about all the remarkable Jews who served in our government and the military or who won Nobel Prizes, led universities, and made lifesaving medical discoveries our Nation counts on.

The Jewish community's commitment to *tikkun olam*, a commitment to repair the world, is clear across so many generations of Americans.

Bringing the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History into the Smithsonian alongside the African American, Native American, and other pending cultural museums is fitting and essential.

We must shine a light on it to support Jewish Americans and respond to skyrocketing hate.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, again, for their support, and I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING).

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member from New York (Mr. MORELLE).

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7764, and I recognize my dear friend, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for her leadership on this effort.

Mr. Speaker, the National Museum of American Jewish History tells the story of American Jews and their myriad contributions to every facet of American life, from science and medicine to education and technology to music, theater, philanthropy, civil rights, and the pursuit of justice.

Jewish citizens were critical to building the textile industry in my hometown of Greensboro, North Carolina, and have contributed to so many other facets of our life from civil rights, the arts, healthcare and so much more.

American Jews have worked hard to build our great country. Their story is the American story. Today we face a frightening rise in anti-Semitism. The FBI's 2023 hate crime statistics showed that Jews are the victims of 68 percent of religiously motivated hate crimes, despite being just 2 percent of the population.

History has taught us that when hatred against Jews is allowed to fester, it frequently grows to threaten other

minority groups and undermines the foundations of our democracy.

In the fight against hate and intolerance, education is one of the best tools we have. That is why the first-ever U.S. national strategy to counter anti-Semitism emphasizes the importance of broadening appreciation of Jewish-American heritage.

The Weitzman Museum does just that. It showcases important artifacts and stories from the first arrival of Jews to the Colonies in 1654, all the way to the present day.

Transferring this museum to the Smithsonian umbrella is the right and fitting thing to do. That is why 36 Jewish groups, including the ADL, AJC, and Jewish Federations of North America, support this bill.

This bill marks the first step toward achieving national level commitment to increasing awareness, understanding, and education about American-Jewish history.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I encourage all my colleagues to join me in doing the same.

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for all the eloquent comments made by all the Members who spoke on the bill. This is vitally important, and I think it bears repeating that having opportunities for people to understand, to learn about the past, and to give us greater understanding is going to lead us to a better country and a better world.

Mr. Speaker, I am grateful, again, to the chair of the committee and the sponsors for their work, I look forward to not only supporting the bill but urging my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank my colleague, the ranking member, for his work on the bill, as well as the sponsors of this legislation.

This is an opportunity for us to come together to address the rise that we have seen in anti-Semitism and to stand with the Jewish people in this particular period of time of peril that we see in the country of Israel.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Rep. WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ, Rep. MILLER, and Rep. BOYLE for their leadership on this bill.

H.R. 7764 authorizes a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman Museum of American Jewish history to the Smithsonian Institution. Just last week, the House Committee on Administration unanimously passed this legislation out of their committee.

The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia serves as a powerful reminder of the contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the fabric of the United States.

The Weitzman Museum was established in 1976 as the only museum in the Nation dedicated exclusively to exploring and interpreting the American Jewish experience.

This bill is the first step in bringing the Weitzman into the Smithsonian Institution, the world's largest museum, education, and research complex.

By bringing this museum and its collections into the Smithsonian, Congress will ensure that the story of Jewish Americans is shared with the widest possible audience.

I am proud to be one of the lead Members on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7764, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CELEBRATING THREE GREAT CENTRAL VALLEY UNIVERSITIES

(Mr. DUARTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate three great Central Valley universities: UC Merced, Fresno State University, and Stanislaus State University, that The Wall Street Journal ranked three out of the top four colleges in America for helping students climb the socioeconomic ladder.

These universities embody the American Dream. They empower first-generation Americans to work hard, get good jobs, and improve their lives.

UC-Merced tops the rankings for social mobility and its commitment to transforming lives. The same values are echoed up and down the valley by Cal State-Stanislaus at number two and Cal State-Fresno at number four.

These schools do more than provide a good education at a reasonable price. They open the door to the American Dream. Going to these valley schools is more than an education. It is an opportunity for valley kids to dream big, work hard, and build a better life for themselves and their families.

Mr. Speaker, sending a student to one of these schools is a dream for so many families in the valley because they change lives. Today, on the House floor, we honor their impact, their dedication, and their relentless pursuit of excellence. I congratulate these universities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BILL BAXTER

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of my good friend, Bill Baxter, who passed away recently at 71 years old.

Bill was well-known as a very brilliant businessowner and a very charitable man.

He joined his dad's industrial gas business, Holston Gases, in 1980 after he graduated from the University of Tennessee Law School. Since then, the business grew from one location in Knoxville to 42 branches operating across 10 States.

He also bought the Wort Hotel in Wyoming in 2004 and helped the hotel earn a four-diamond designation from AAA in 2008.

Bill also served as the chairman of the board of the Knoxville Zoo, the commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Economic Development, and he was appointed to the Tennessee Valley Authority board by President George W. Bush.

He had the integrity to resign from the TVA board after 5 years because he wanted to honor a bill that had passed in Congress which imposed 5-year term limits, even though the bill didn't apply to him.

I offer my condolences to Bill's wife of 45 years, Ginger; his sister, Jennifer, and her husband, Frank; his four children and their spouses, Elizabeth and Rick, Jennifer and Jonathan, Joe and Emily, and John and Vivian; as well as nine grandchildren; and everyone else who knew and loved Bill.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, he actually tried to talk me out of running for office, and I often wonder where my life would be if I took his advice. I am glad I didn't, though, Mr. Speaker. Bill was a dear friend, and he will be missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, September 24, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."