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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. FLEISCHMANN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 16, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. FLEISCHMANN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, 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.

HONORING JUDGE TOM GRAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a friend and exemplary member of our community, Judge Tom Gray.

Judge Gray has led a distinguished career in Sumner County, Tennessee, serving as a judge since 1982 and as a chancellor of the 18th judicial district since 1986. As he will soon step aside from his career in public service to spend more time with his family, I wanted to take this opportunity to

highlight just a few of the reasons Judge Gray has been so important to our community.

Mr. Speaker, Tom Gray is a Tennessean through and through. He graduated from Central High School in Shelbyville, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from George Peabody College, and received his law degree from the Nashville YMCA Law School.

During his exemplary career in the Tennessee legal community, Judge Gray served as treasurer and secretary of the Tennessee Judicial Conference. He has served on committees to improve education and domestic relations, as well as to improve work between the bench and the bar. He has hosted student groups at the courthouse and has spoken to local civic clubs and churches.

As a proud Sumner County resident, he has served as the president of the Gallatin Rotary Club. His long resume of community activities includes work with the Sumner County Historical Society, the Rosemont Society, Habitat for Humanity, as well as the Sumner County Museum.

Judge Gray is a proud member of the Hendersonville United Methodist Church and a proud husband, father, and grandfather.

Mr. Speaker, my friends and I in Sumner County wish all the best to our friend Tom as he retires from the bench. I look forward to watching Judge Gray begin the next chapter of his life. It is my honor to speak on his behalf here today.

ORCA CAPTIVITY

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, while the documentary "Blackfish" ignited a public and passionate debate over whether orcas should be held in captivity for the purposes of display and

entertainment, as they are at Sea World and other parks around the world, marine mammal experts have, for decades, been engaged in a longer discussion about the scientific value and morality of keeping killer whales in captivity.

"Blackfish" documents the history of the captivity of orcas in the United States, focusing on one whale named Tilikum, who figured in the deaths of three of his trainers.

Public displays of animals can engage our children and kindle a lifelong interest in and respect for wildlife. They can sometimes add to our scientific body of knowledge. Indeed, these are often cited as the justifications for keeping animals in captivity. Yet the shows in which these animals are displayed often have more in common with a rock concert than a scientific exposition, and many believe that the psychological and physical harm done to these magnificent animals far outweighs any benefits reaped from their display.

Here are a few facts that call into question the propriety of keeping these animals in captivity.

In the wild, orcas frequently swim 100 miles a day and dive to great depths in search of food. In captivity, they are held in tiny, shallow concrete pools where they often wallow listlessly when not being asked to perform.

In the wild, the average life expectancy for male orcas is 30, and for females it is 50 years; whereas, most captive orcas die before they reach the age of 25. Remarkably, a 103-year-old orca was recently spotted off the coast of Canada.

In the wild, dorsal fin collapse is extremely rare, but all adult male orcas in captivity have collapsed dorsal fins. Many scientists attribute this phenomenon to the condition of their captivity, such as repetitive circular swimming patterns, gravitational pull from spending the vast majority of the

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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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