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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,
March 29, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CHARLES J. FLEISCHMANN 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, 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 RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL GUS HARGETT

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

Mr. DESJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor retired Major General Gus Hargett, a staunch advocate for the National Guard and one of the most widely respected Tennesseans I have ever had the pleasure of knowing.

After more than 6 years as president of the National Guard Association for the United States, Gus will be stepping down next month. In all, he has more than 47 years of military service.

He enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard in 1962 as an infantry soldier and served in a variety of staff and leadership positions in his home State, in the Pentagon, and overseas. During Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, he was chief of operations and exercises at the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Virginia.

Prior to his retirement from the military, Hargett served as the Tennessee Adjutant General. Since his appointment to association president in 2010, Gus has led the association's day-to-day operations in Washington, D.C., and has worked tirelessly on behalf of guardsmen across the globe by advocating for and spearheading groundbreaking legislative achievements.

Among his most memorable and significant accomplishments was his work adding the National Guard Bureau Chief to the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Throughout his career, he has committed himself to promoting the National Guard and improving the overall quality of life for our Nation's soldiers in harm's way.

I want to take this moment to thank Major General Gus Hargett for his years of service to our country and for his tireless work on behalf of our Nation's guardsmen and their families.

REPEATING THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT TRUMP

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the Subcommittee on Immigration, the chairman, the gentleman from Wisconsin, attempted to reprimand me by reminding me that House rules prevent Members from "casting aspersions on the President of the United States." And what did I say to get this reprimand? I said that the President of the United States had said

that Mexicans were criminals and rapists.

Well, as the sportscasters used to say, let's go to the videotape. Almost the first words out of Donald Trump's mouth when he descended the golden escalators to launch his Presidential campaign were this:

When Mexico sends its people, they are not sending their best. They are bringing drugs. They are bringing crime. They are rapists. And some, I assume, are good people.

Well, I left out that part about some, I assume, are good people.

But the chairman of the committee said I was not following House rules because I was casting aspersions on the President because, apparently, I was saying what the President, himself, had actually said. And if that was offensive to the chairman, I agree. It is offensive. That was the point of making the speech.

So is repeating the words of the President against House rules? And if so, why? Because they are hateful and ugly things to say about our fellow human beings?

I don't think we should be barred from repeating the words of the President because they are hateful and ugly things to say about our fellow human beings, because he said them, and he is the President, and I respect the office.

So maybe it has to be something else. Maybe we cannot say things the President has said because it is not appropriate to say some of the things he has said about people, like the dehumanizing language he uses when describing which body parts he can grab women by, for example.

Now, Mr. Speaker, rather than saying, as I said earlier, let's go to the videotape, I think every single American has seen that videotape. When I have discussed the President saying these awful, hurtful things about where he can grab women, either here on the floor or on the Judiciary Committee, I

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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In 1919, Mr. Rogers was born in Jackson, Tennessee. Before he became a waffle cook, Mr. Rogers served as a captain in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

After the war, he took a job as a short-order cook, eventually moving to Atlanta in 1949. It was there that he met his future partner in the Waffle House business, Tom Forkner. In famous words, Mr. Rogers told his friend: "You build a restaurant and I'll show you how to run it."

Their decision was the start of something special. The first Waffle House opened on Labor Day weekend, 1955, in Avondale Estates, Georgia. It was Mr. Rogers' suggestion to keep their restaurant doors open all day long so people would always have a warm place to eat.

Soon enough, more and more towns needed their own 24-hour diner, and today, more than 2,100 locations are scattered across 25 States. Georgia leads the way with more than 400 locations covering the State.

What Mr. Rogers valued the most was the people, whether they were dedicated regulars, hungry drop-ins, or the employees who made his dream possible. His passion for people was a defining characteristic in his life and is an endearing trait of the Waffle House legacy.

Thank you, Mr. Rogers, for welcoming any who entered the Waffle House doors, regardless of who they were, what time they came, or how they ordered their hash browns.

BEST OF THE SOUTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southern Soul Barbeque for winning the Southern Living magazine's first ever Best of the South Award.

In fall of 2016, Southern Living polled its nationwide audience to discover America's favorite cities, hotels, shops, museums, and restaurants in the South. At the end of the poll, America crowned St. Simons Island's own Southern Soul Barbeque as the best barbecue restaurant in the South.

The restaurant opened in 2007 when Harrison Sapp and Griffin Bufkin joined forces to create an authentic barbecue restaurant that embraces its Southern roots. Southern Soul Barbeque was born in a converted gas station with Southern charm, making it the perfect atmosphere to feast on Mr. Sapp's and Mr. Bufkin's barbecue dishes. They cook their delicious pork ribs and brisket on oak-fired pits outside their restaurant, so patrons know they are enjoying authentic barbecue.

Over the years, the restaurant has enjoyed a loyal local following and was even featured on the Food Network in 2010. These days, business is booming, and should only grow from here.

In their efforts to feed the folks of St. Simons Island, Mr. Sapp and Mr. Bufkin created more than a barbecue restaurant, they created a barbecue experience.

Congratulations to Mr. Sapp and Mr. Bufkin on winning this award, and for

the national recognition their hard work earned.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF BURKE DAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life of former Georgia State Representative Burke Day. Mr. Day passed away in his Tybee Island home on March 5, 2017, at the age of 62.

Mr. Day was born in Jacksonville, North Carolina, to parents, Cecil and Marian, but he grew up in Dunwoody, Georgia. It was there that Mr. Day met his high school sweetheart and future wife, Sally, at Peachtree High School.

During this time, he helped lay the foundation of his father's new business, Days Inn Hotels. Mr. Day worked with his father to build the very first location on Tybee Island.

After studying at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York City and Mercer University in Atlanta, Mr. Day joined the family business of real estate like his father.

In 1991, he made his start in politics by running for the Tybee Island City Council on a dare, and won. During this time, he grew to love public service. Three years later he ran again, this time for the Georgia General Assembly House of Representatives, where he served for the next 16 years until his retirement in 2010.

Perhaps his greatest achievement was his work on the Stephens-Day legislation in 2000, which freezes the value of residential property at the time it was purchased. This means homeowners are not taxed out of their homes when property values increase. Stephens-Day saved local residents hundreds or even thousands of dollars a year.

I am proud to recognize today Mr. Day's time in public service and his contributions to the people of Georgia.

GOLD STAR SPOUSES DAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call your attention to the upcoming Gold Star Spouses Day occurring on April 5, 2017, and to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing those who have given so much for our country.

Gold Star Spouses are widows and widowers who have lost loved ones during their service to our Nation's Armed Forces. Through this group, members find comfort, understanding, and an unparalleled support system.

On April 5, we all have the opportunity to honor both fallen American heroes and surviving military spouses.

RECOGNIZING JUDGE MICHAEL J. NEWMAN'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Honorable Michael J. Newman, Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, and who is president of the Federal Bar Associa-

tion, for his achievements in piloting a special veterans court in Dayton, Ohio.

With Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton VA Medical Center both located in the Dayton community, and with the large number of veterans residing in my 10th Congressional District, southwest Ohio is a prime region for establishing a court that concentrates on veterans' issues.

Judge Newman's veterans court appears to be the first of its kind in the State of Ohio, and it aims to address an area of need in the Miami Valley, assisting military veterans who have been charged with relatively minor offenses get their lives back on track.

In many cases, treatment and strong guidance is a better course of action to remedy misdemeanor Federal offenses than jail time, which can lead to a cascade of negative unintended consequences, such as difficulty in obtaining employment.

Thanks to Judge Newman's efforts to cooperate with the United States Attorney's Office and the Federal Public Defender's Office, veterans in the Dayton, Ohio, area can receive treatment for mental health and substance abuse issues, which so often underpin these minor offenses, rather than sitting in jail.

Veterans who decide to participate in Judge Newman's 6-month-long pilot program are required to work closely with a Veterans Justice Outreach coordinator, who acts as a mentor and caseworker, providing guidance, facilitating treatment, and helping secure housing and employment.

Besides meeting with their veterans officer, veterans must also attend medical appointments, receive recommended treatment, and not reoffend in order to graduate. Upon successful completion, the misdemeanor charges are frequently dismissed, allowing former servicemembers to truly earn themselves a second chance at life.

Of the more than 33 veteran participants thus far, 20 have successfully completed the program, and several others are continuing to make progress as we speak.

I commend Judge Newman for instituting an innovative Federal veterans court program that addresses critical needs within our community and resolves programs by rehabilitating rather than simply punishing the brave men and women who have served our country.

I also would like to congratulate Judge Newman for his work in implementing a civics program for students to learn about the Federal courts. Developing a partnership between the Federal judiciary and the Federal Bar Association, these interactive court camps invite elementary, middle, and high school students into the Federal courts to learn about the third branch of government.

During court camp, Federal judges meet with the groups of students in school classrooms, as well as Federal courtrooms, to teach them about the

selection process for Federal judges, explain how decisions are made in both criminal and civil cases, and offer an insider's view on how the Federal court system works.

Under Judge Newman's leadership, the Federal Bar Association's partnership with the United States Courts will give thousands of young people across the country the opportunity to meet with Federal judges and explore the judicial branch of government.

In Dayton, Ohio, alone, where Judge Newman sits, over 1,000 students will participate in the civics program, learning more about the Constitution and Bill of Rights, the separation of powers, the role of the Federal judge, the structure of the Federal court system, and how to become a judge or lawyer themselves.

The Federal Bar Association has also added a civics page to its website to make educational materials available for lawyers and judges who choose to serve as mentors in the program.

In an effort to encourage direct involvement by American government teachers and students alike, the Federal Bar Association, again under Judge Newman's leadership, is holding a national essay contest for middle and high school students on the subject "What Does an Impartial Judicial System Mean to Me?"

In addition to honoring the student essay winners, the Federal Bar Association and United States Courts will also recognize a select group of top-notch civics teachers from across the United States.

As president of the Federal Bar Association and a United States magistrate, Judge Newman has spearheaded this effort, publicly urging the association's 19,000 members to join him in engaging the next generation of attorneys, judges, and legislators.

I commend Judge Newman on his tireless work to connect our young people to the best and brightest in the field of law, and for reemphasizing the critical importance of civics in American society.

DISTRUST IN GOVERNMENT IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH

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

Mr. GALLAGHER. Mr. Speaker, distrust in government is at an all-time high, and it is easy to see why. Our Federal debt is approaching \$20 trillion. A child born today in this country will inherit a crushing burden of debt, part of an intergenerational crime without consequence.

Meanwhile, the middle class is being hollowed out, if not disappearing entirely. We have a 7-million-man strong army that simply opted out of the labor force entirely.

Finally, our foreign policy is in crisis. Threats continue to rise abroad as, here at home, we continue to wreak

havoc on our own military through mindless defense sequester. By the way, our veterans still aren't getting the care that they deserve. This is unacceptable.

Despite the fact that Congress, by any metric we might devise, is not doing its basic job, in 10 days the Members of this body will adjourn on a 2-week vacation. And in 10 legislative days, if we don't make some hard choices, the government may shut down, cutting off our constituents from access to programs they depend upon for their livelihood.

So my message is simple. My plea to this body is simple. Let's end the vacation.

In what other job would you grant yourself a 2-week vacation if you failed to do that fundamental job?

I know we need to go back home. I know people want to hear from their constituents. But more than anything else, our constituents sent us here to do our job, to work together to fix problems rather than punting them down the road to the next generation. So, please, let's stay here, let's do our job. That is the very least we owe the American people.

THANKING TEXAS WORLD WAR I VETERANS FOR PROTECTING OUR COUNTY

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

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, soldiers from south Texas were instrumental in the United States victory during World War I. With the 100th anniversary of World War I quickly approaching, I would like to take a minute to thank our veterans, especially Texas veterans, for protecting our country.

In 1916, thousands of National Guardsmen were stationed along the Mexican border. When tensions began to calm, 3,500 soldiers were moved to Corpus Christi, where the city prepared a 200-acre site that later became Camp Scurry.

By 1917, the camp was closed after the border remained quiet for nearly a year. Once the United States entered World War I, the camp was reactivated and became a training base for the 4th Field Artillery Regiment and the 5th Engineer Battalion.

Through the draft, nearly 200,000 Texans served in the military during the war, and 450 Texas women worked as nurses. Today, now, we must remember the 5,000 Texans who died during the war, including seven Gold Star women nurses.

Also, a special thank you to the Nueces County Historical Society for hosting the World War I Centennial Commemoration on April 6. Their work helps preserve our south Texas history.

THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

Mr. FARENTHOLD. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to highlight how impor-

tant our relationship with Israel is, and how our ally in the Middle East is a huge asset to our Nation and the world.

Israel is a beacon of democracy in a sea of turbulence. It is a success story of enterprising spirit and indomitable will. I was fortunate enough to visit Israel in 2011 and saw firsthand the high level of strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel militarily, businesswise, technologywise, and socially.

Almost 32 years ago, the U.S. signed its first-ever free trade agreement with Israel, leading to almost \$40 billion in trade annually. Israel makes up more than 40 percent of all investment in the United States from the Middle East and north Africa, and has companies listed on the NASDAQ Stock Exchange, more than any other country other than the United States and Canada.

The "Start-up Nation" has given the world the USB flash drive, the first PC CPU, voice over IP phone system, and just recently, Intel acquired Israeli driver-assistance company, Mobileye, to help develop better autonomous vehicles.

Israel's drip irrigation technology has helped millions around the world grow crops on land that otherwise would be barren, and Israeli doctors have made medical discoveries improving the lives of millions of Americans and hundreds of millions of folks worldwide.

The U.S. and Israeli militaries also maintain a high level of cooperation and support. Our two nations regularly hold joint exercises and work side by side in developing new technologies, including missile defense systems, weapons technologies, and more.

Situated in an extremely hostile neighborhood, Israelis share a unique understanding of the threats posed by Islamic terror groups. Through cooperation, we are constantly monitoring and defeating new threats to both nations.

I have been heartened to see the renewal in U.S.-Israeli relations since President Trump took office and hope to see them continue to flourish. I encourage my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring H.R. 1697, the Israel Anti-Boycott Act; H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act; and H. Res. 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israeli economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation.

While many around the world are eager to point fingers and attempt to delegitimize or destroy the State of Israel, it is important—now more than ever—that we stand strong with our allies and the only democracy in the Middle East.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair