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No. 52

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. FOXX).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 1, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable VIRGINIA FOXX 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 1:50 p.m.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GOVERNOR BRENDAN T. BYRNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LANCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished public service of the Honorable Brendan T. Byrne, the 47th Governor of New Jersey, who today celebrates his 90th birthday. He has lived longer than any governor in the history of our State.

Governor Byrne was born on April 1, 1924, in West Orange, Essex County, and currently lives in the Short Hills section of Millburn Township, Essex

County, in the congressional district I have the honor of serving.

He graduated from West Orange High School in 1942 and served during World War II in the Army Air Corps, where he advanced to the rank of lieutenant and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

One of his fingers was frostbitten as the result of the conditions during his heroic air service over Germany late in the war.

Governor Byrne was graduated from Princeton University in 1949, majoring in public and international affairs, our first Governor to receive an undergraduate degree from Princeton since Woodrow Wilson in 1879, 70 years earlier. Governor Byrne received his law degree from Harvard University in 1951.

In the 1950s, as a young man, he served as a close aide to Governor Robert B. Meyner, who appointed him Essex County prosecutor in 1959. Governor Richard J. Hughes reappointed him prosecutor in 1964 and named him president of the State Board of Public Utilities in 1968.

Respected by both political parties, he was appointed by Republican Governor William T. Cahill to our superior court in 1970.

He was overwhelmingly elected Governor in 1973 and reelected in an uphill political campaign in 1977. During his tenure, the Pinelands Protection Act became law, and casino hotel development began in Atlantic City. Impeccably honest, he served as our Governor with great distinction. His dry wit is a joy to hear and deeply appreciated by countless New Jerseyans.

I was honored to have Governor Byrne as a professor when I was a student at the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University in the early 1980s and recall fondly his superb teaching skills and generosity of spirit and time as the class met weekly at Morven, the historic Governor's residence in Princeton, built by Richard Stockton,

a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Governor Byrne is a wonderful father and grandfather, teacher and mentor, colleague and friend. His dynamic and vivacious wife, Ruthi Zinn Byrne, is known to many New Jerseyans for her significant charitable activities. They are an integral part of the fabric of New Jersey.

On his 90th birthday, I congratulate Governor Brandon T. Byrne and wish him many years ahead of good health and happiness.

TRIBUTE TO GARLAND TUCKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. HOLDING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HOLDING. Madam Speaker, last year, we mourned the loss of a true servant of our community, Garland Scott Tucker, Jr. Garland dedicated his life to sharing his love of Christ. In family life, in business, and in his community, Garland was grounded and guided by his faith.

Garland was born in Raleigh in 1919. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill, he joined the family business, Tucker Furniture, in 1941 and moved to Wilson the next year to manage the eastern North Carolina stores.

He eventually became president of the company, a position he would hold until his retirement in 1985. In 1954, he joined the board of directors at BB&T and served as chairman from 1979 to 1987. During that time, BB&T would grow from a community bank into a major player throughout the Southeast.

Beyond a very successful business career, Garland was a true family man. He married Jean Barnes Wilson in 1946, and over the course of their 67-year marriage, they had four children, Garland III, Edwin, Sarah, and Macon, who in turn blessed Garland with 15 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

□ 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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Garland's life was marked by his commitment to sharing his faith with others and serving those in need. The primary focus of his civic engagement was his support for Gideons International and the Salvation Army. Through both organizations, he was able to improve his local community and the world at large.

Garland served Gideons International in a number of different capacities, spanning local, national, and international involvement with their mission. In his time, he served as one of three members for their finance committee and also one of 20 members of the international cabinet, which serves as the governing body for the entire organization.

At the peak of his responsibilities, Garland was responsible for the distribution of Bibles across 41 countries, including countries in Europe, South America, the Caribbean, and the Near East.

At the local level, Garland was an engaged and active member of the Salvation Army, both in Wilson and Raleigh. While a Wilson resident, he served as chairman of the Salvation Army's board of directors for several years and similarly joined the Salvation Army's board in Raleigh when he moved back to Raleigh in 1996.

His time spent volunteering for the Salvation Army was so meaningful that, in 2012, he was honored with one of their highest honors, the William Booth Award. Named for the Salvation Army's founder, the award is given to those who have made an international impact to the betterment of humanity.

Garland's faith guided him each and every day to follow Christ's example and help those around the world who are in need. In word and deed, Garland dedicated his 94 years to making a mark here, nationally, and internationally, enriching the lives of everyone he met and all those across the world who were impacted by his work.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Madam Speaker, last week in a hearing of the Armed Services Committee, we listened to the concerns of Army Secretary John McHugh and Chief of Staff of the Army, General Ray Odierno.

They appeared before the committee to tell us about the serious problems facing the United States Army, specifically, the difficult budget situation the Army is currently facing.

It was my intention to ask the following question regarding the funding that is being cut from the Army: Why are we continuing to spend billions of dollars in Afghanistan when the money could be going to support our servicemembers?

As I did last week, I would like to read a short paragraph from the World

Affairs Journal entitled, "Money Pit: The Monstrous Failure of U.S. Aid to Afghanistan." The article states that, in 2012, the United States budgeted \$11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another \$5.8 billion for 2013.

The article goes on to say:

In Afghanistan, a big problem is illiteracy. Almost 3 years ago, when Lieutenant General William B. Caldwell IV, took command of the NATO training mission, he noted that "overall literacy" among Afghan military and police stood "at about 14 percent." How can an illiterate policeman read a license plate, the General asked, how can a soldier fill out a form, read an equipment manual?

Now, even though these concerns have been on the table for years, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction said in last summer's report: The literacy rate of Afghan security forces as a whole is 11 percent.

Again, I want to repeat that, in 2012, the United States budgeted \$11.2 billion for Afghan military training, with another \$5.8 billion for 2013.

Madam Speaker, for the United States to continue funding these Afghan security forces would be a mistake. It would put our servicemembers' lives in danger, and it would waste the American people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Why are we, in Congress, not putting a stop to this abuse, especially considering this money flows freely overseas with little to no accountability?

Last Friday, I had the privilege of speaking to around 100 people at an event in my district, and truly, almost everyone agreed with me that spending money we do not have in Afghanistan is a waste.

Every nation that has tried to govern Afghanistan has failed, and this is no exception. It is my hope, along with my colleague, JIM MCGOVERN, who has continuously worked with me on this issue, that the House leadership will allow debate on this failed policy in Afghanistan this spring or summer.

We need to take the money that we are spending overseas, and we need it to benefit our own security forces and the problems facing the American people here at home.

When I look at the bridges and the potholes and education and other needs in America and we are cutting those programs, why do we continue to borrow billions of dollars from foreign governments to prop up the Afghan leadership? It is nothing but a failed policy.

In closing, I ask God to please bless our men and women in uniform, to please bless the families of our men and women in uniform, and I continue to ask God to continue to bless America.

OBAMACARE DEADLINE: APRIL FOOLS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, today marks the legal

deadline of registration for the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as ObamaCare.

On March 12, 2014, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius testified before a House Ways and Means Committee. When asked, are you going to delay enrollment beyond March 31, she definitively answered, no, sir.

Well, Madam Speaker, April Fools.

Millions of Americans are finding ObamaCare today to be a very expensive and harmful April Fools' prank. One of those individuals is Sondra, a constituent from Clinton County, located in the Fifth District of Pennsylvania.

Sondra emailed the following on Friday:

I was just on the marketplace, and I can't believe the prices. I also am wrong about ObamaCare including eye and dental. I see that it does not. I thought this was supposed to be better than what I would find privately. Not to my surprise.

Even with the tax credits, it is going to cost us just as much. It seems they doubled the price on there to eat up the tax credits. This whole thing has us so upset.

We only make between \$30,000-\$40,000 a year, and our health insurance is going to go from \$320 a month for both of us to doubling, at the least. We will pay more and get less coverage and pay way more out of pocket.

How does our President think this is helping us, the working poor? This is a class we never hear anyone talk about. We hear about the poor, middle class, and the wealthy, but not the working poor. We are the ones who make too much to get a handout, not that we want one, but not enough to really make ends meet due to our poor economy and rapidly rising inflation.

Honestly, it would pay me to quit my job because we would get all the help we need because our income would be so low, and with my chronic health issues of diabetes, thyroid disease, and arthritis, I would get Pennsylvania medical assistance.

How sad is it that our President has put the working poor in that option? I could honestly just cry not knowing how we will be able to pay for this health care penalty. We had what we needed and could afford.

Now, we can't afford it even with the government help, and we have less coverage for higher premiums. How does this make any sense? Ugh. Sorry for the rant.

□ 1215

Madam Speaker, Americans deserve solutions to assure access to affordable, quality health care that they determine that they need. As for ObamaCare, there are far too many winners and mostly losers like Sondra and her family, so it is fitting and accurate on this April 1 day to say: ObamaCare? April fools.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2014.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of