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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. DUNCAN of Tennessee).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 29, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J. DUNCAN, Jr. 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 W. RONALD COALE

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

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of my friend, W. Ronald Coale, who passed away on April 17, 2014.

Ron was a native of Stockton, California. He went to local schools, graduated from Stockton College, and acquired a teaching certificate in the field of transportation and distribution from the University of California at Berkeley. Dedicated to his country,

Ron was a veteran of the Korean war, serving in the United States Army from 1952 to 1954.

His life was dedicated to serving the community in a variety of jobs, including as a member of the Stockton Metropolitan Transit District Board of Directors; Stockton City Council, serving as vice mayor in 1985; San Joaquin County Council of Governments; California Public Utility Commission; Stockton Port District Board of Port Commissioners.

Appointed by the Stockton City Council to the Board of Port Commissioners in 1991, Ron served with distinction as the commissioner for 20 years. During his tenure on the Stockton Port Commission, Ron's leadership was apparent from the onset, and in the year 2000 he helped the Port of Stockton secure Rough and Ready Island from the United States Navy.

By acquiring Rough and Ready Island, the Port of Stockton became the third largest port in California, the largest inland port in terms of acreage in California, and the second busiest inland port on the west coast. This allowed the Port of Stockton to better serve California's expanding agriculture industry, and is essential given its proximity to major transportation hubs in the State.

Ron also served on various boards and commissions at the State and local levels in California. He was a former member of the advisory board of the YMCA of San Joaquin County, a member of the Stockton Salvation Army, and a former gubernatorial appointee to the Atascadero State Hospital Advisory Board. In these roles, Ron helped to reach our youth and help those in need.

As a veteran, Ron was a member of Karl Ross Post of the American Legion in Stockton. He was a member of my U.S. service academy nomination committee. His knowledge and expertise was invaluable to the young men and

women who are joining our Armed Forces. Ron was also a frequent visitor to my Stockton district office, and he knew my entire staff, and we appreciated him.

Ron was a 33rd Degree Scottish Rite Mason, the highest degree for a mason. He was appointed to the office of Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General of California for the Stockton Scottish Rite in April 1992, serving in that position until May 2003.

He was instrumental in partnering the Stockton Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Center and the speech and language department of the University of the Pacific. Throughout his partnership, the Stockton Center became a flagship for all Scottish Rite Childhood Language Disorders Centers in California, providing speech therapy treatment to children throughout our community. This center now serves approximately 100 children each week free of charge.

Ron's impact on our community and lives around him will not be forgotten. Ron always brought a smile and a warm sense of humor. To know Ron was to know a dear friend. He was one of Stockton's most dedicated citizens, and we will miss him.

Ron was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Mary Ellen Coale. Ron is survived by his two sons, Ronald W. and Michael W., and five grandchildren: Ronald Thomas, Stephanie Lynn, Christopher Aaron, Jeffrey Michael, and Tyler Joseph Coale.

THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

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

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. Speaker, last week as I traveled my State, over and over again people encouraged me with a simple statement, "I pray for you."

□ 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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Those powerful words pack a tremendous amount of compassion and theology. It is the belief of millions of Americans that there is a God who created us, He cares for us, and He is interested in our lives. It is the belief that if we pray, a loving God hears our prayer and He responds to our needs and the needs of others.

This is the week of the National Day of Prayer. This is a time for us to be able to reflect on prayer and to remember and recognize the Americans who value prayer. I share the belief with many others that people are separated from God because of our choices to walk away from God and God's path for our lives, so people live their lives alone, even in a crowd. The Bible says, in Romans 6:23:

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Simply put, what we earn for what we do wrong is separation from life, real life. God gives us the opportunity to have eternal life, life with God forever, by accepting the gift of Jesus Christ through his death and his resurrection.

It was my first real prayer. When I was 8 years old, I realized for the first time that there is a God and I did not know Him. I was separated from Him. At my home, I prayed for Jesus to forgive my sin and come into my life and take control. It is that same simple prayer that millions of others have prayed to begin a walk with God.

The Bible teaches us—and I believe—that God hears our prayer, not because of our good behavior, but because God opened the line of communication when Jesus paid for our sin on the cross, and I accepted His offer of forgiveness and a relationship.

It begs the question still: Does it matter if we pray and pray for each other? Yes is the simple answer. Prayer puts our hearts and thoughts back in line with God's design. Prayer allows us an opportunity to spread out our most painful problems before a loving God. Prayer also provides an opportunity for the God who can do anything to demonstrate His care and power in a world that thinks they do not need God.

This attitude is not new. President Lincoln in his proclamation for a National Day of Prayer on March 30, 1863, wrote this:

We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth, and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched us and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us. It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.

The National Day of Prayer is not a mandate to pray. It is not a congressional establishment of religion. It is two things: a congressional acknowledgment that millions of people in our Nation believe in God, and they believe that God hears our prayers and responds when we pray; and a request that those who believe in prayer should pray, and pray for our Nation and pray for our Nation's leaders.

If you are considering calling my office to complain that I mentioned prayer and God on the House floor, you are always welcome to call, but you are not going to change my mind, and you are not going to change our Nation. Each day we begin with prayer in the House of Representatives. The words of our national motto, "In God We Trust," are emblazoned on the wall right over my right shoulder. There is a prayer chapel in the Capitol set aside for Members of Congress to stop and pray before votes. We have always had prayer as a nation. That is the free exercise of religion that is protected by the Constitution.

I am well aware that some people want people of faith to be silent and never speak about God in public. They condemn my insensitivity for their lack of belief by trying to require a fellow free American to live life more like them. But I would remind them that they are not required to believe in God because they are an American, and I am not required to stop believing in God just because I represent Americans. We are both free. You can choose not to pray, and I can choose to pray for you.

For those in our Nation that pray, I humbly request that you set aside this National Day of Prayer to renew your commitment to pray for our Nation. We need God's help in our Nation right now. We are in obvious trouble and conflict. Even many Christians that I meet would rather complain than pray.

For everyone who says to me we are too far gone in debt, our culture is past the tipping point, we have lost our way forever, I tell them that I believe there is still a God in Heaven who hears our prayer, who cares about our lives. I will work, but I will also pray, and I ask you to join me.

Let's pray.

RENEW UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to show you and my colleagues the faces of the Americans that are hurting by refusing to renew unemployment benefits.

Just 3 days after Christmas, this House leadership left these people out in the cold and made it more difficult for them to provide for their family, to buy food, to pay their mortgages or pay their rent. It has been 4 months

since the House Republican leaders turned their backs on millions of unemployed Americans, and the situation grows more dire for these individuals and their families with each passing day.

For far too long, this Congress has described the long-term unemployed in numbers, figures, and statistics only. Well, today I hope that will begin to change and that the Speaker and other Republicans leaders will understand what is happening to real people because of their refusal to extend unemployment benefits.

I am launching something called the "Faces of the Unemployed" to show my colleagues on the other side of the aisle just who they are hurting. This poster board will be outside my office, and I will be adding people to it as they share their stories. It will force my Republican colleagues to look into their eyes as they pass them in the hallway and to understand that these individuals should not be invisible.

Mr. Speaker, I want you and all of my colleagues to look at these faces and explain to your colleagues and to America why you won't allow a vote that will help them put food on their table, pay their rent, and provide for their families.

These are real people, Mr. Speaker, who have been left behind and forgotten about by this body. It is disgraceful that, while the Republican budget spends billions of dollars abroad and protects special interest tax loopholes that encourage companies to ship American jobs overseas, this body can't provide immediate relief to the long-term unemployed who are still recovering from the Great Recession.

In the end, this debate is about more than dollars and cents. It is about the families who continue to lose unemployment benefits with each passing day that the House fails to act. It is about the more than 200,000 veterans and more than a million children who have been affected by this loss of benefits.

It is about my constituents, Michael from Riverside, Rhode Island, who is about to lose his electricity and gas because he can't pay his bills and, in his own words, has "nowhere to turn."

It is about Paula from Bristol, who has always worked since she was 15 years old and says she is "being made to feel like a thief."

It is about Lillian from North Providence, who said she would "rather be working" but can't find a job.

These stories are not unique to Rhode Island. This is happening to people in every part of our country: Nevada, Illinois, California, Kentucky, and Mississippi, to name a few. These people aren't Republicans or Democrats. They are hardworking Americans who can't find work and need our help.

It is time to put aside our differences and come together to provide immediate relief to these struggling families. In tough times, Congress has a