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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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.

AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the July Fourth break, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, who were killed during combat operations in Afghanistan: Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, Lance Corporal Brandon J. Garabrant, and Lance Corporal Adam F. Wolff. May I, at this time, extend my deepest sympathy to the families of these three brave marines.

Mr. Speaker, recently much attention has been given to the chaos building in Iraq. However, we must not forget that there is still chaos in Afghanistan.

In June of this year, I visited Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. I met three soldiers from Fort Bragg who had lost one leg each in Afghanistan. I met two marines from my district at Camp Lejeune.

One marine, 23 years old, had lost two legs and an arm. His father, from Louisiana, was standing beside his exercise mat, which is about 3 or 4 feet off the ground. To look in the eyes of the father, to see the pain, the sadness, and the worry about the future of his 23-year-old son, I cannot describe today on the floor of the House. I don't know the words to describe the pain I saw in the eyes.

Then I went to see the second marine from Camp Lejeune, who in February of this year stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. I could only look at him and hope for the best as he told me about his wife and his 8-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have the photograph on this poster of two young ladies whose father was Sergeant Kevin Balduf, stationed at Camp Lejeune. The little girls' names are Eden and Stephanie. They are standing at the grave site of their father.

Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer—Sergeant Balduf, again, was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Colonel Palmer at Air Station Cherry Point, which is also in my district in eastern North Carolina—were sent to Afghanistan to train Afghans to be police officers. The night before Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer were killed, Sergeant Balduf emailed his wife, Amy, and said, "I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them." The next day, he and Colonel Palmer were shot and killed by the Afghans they were trying to train.

Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is not worth the treasure or the blood that has been spent there over the last 12 years. We have no more business thinking we can change the Middle East, because history has proven Afghanistan and Iraq will never change, no matter what. Iraq was an unnecessary war. It was manufactured intelligence by the previous administration. It was an unnecessary, unjust war where 4,000 Americans were killed, 30,000 were wounded, and 100,000 Iraqis were killed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will close today by quoting a man for whom I have great respect, because he and I agree on our foreign policies. His name is Pat Buchanan:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

We in Congress continue to spend money over in Afghanistan—and now Iraq—from money that we borrow from other countries. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I say to Stephanie and Eden: Your father was a hero. He will never be forgotten.

I will say to all the families and the children of those who lost loved ones: Your loved ones will never be forgotten. They have done so much for this country.

May God continue to bless America and may God continue to bless those in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Federal judge in Texas, our government is "completing the criminal mission" of human traffickers "who are violating the border security of the United States" and assisting a "criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals."

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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Here is how ICE is complicit in aiding and abetting human smuggling:

A smuggler is paid to bring children into the United States. The smuggler then is apprehended by ICE and prosecuted, but the criminal act is completed when ICE personally delivers the migrant child to the parent who has instigated the crime. If the parent is also illegally in the United States, ICE neither deports the parent nor the child.

The Federal judge chastised the Department of Homeland Security for not enforcing the law and compares this nonenforcement on the border to "taking illegal drugs or weapons it has seized from smugglers and delivering them to the criminals who solicited their illegal importation" into the United States.

Mr. Speaker, this administration, with its policy of open borders and blatant refusal to enforce the law, is complicit in the crisis at the southern border.

The timing is not a coincidence. The surge of foreign nationals illegally entering the United States all began when the President planted the seed for executive amnesty in a 2012 Rose Garden speech. In this speech, he announced his policy of unilateral administrative amnesty for minors. This was an avoidable crisis created to set the stage politically for universal amnesty.

The President's policy of nonenforcement has effectively encouraged tens of thousands of people to pay smugglers to bring children from Central America to the United States. Now migrant children just surrender themselves at the border and expect the United States to let them stay, take care of them, or reunite them with their parents who may also illegally be in the U.S.

Why? Because the word is out in Central America that America does not enforce its laws. The number of unaccompanied minors who are smuggled into the U.S. illegally has grown tremendously under this administration, as this chart shows, now up to 142,000 a year.

This is not only a humanitarian crisis, but this crisis is affecting our national security, our economy, our health, and our sovereignty. Our porous border allows anyone to enter the United States illegally. The influx of thousands of migrants comes with a cost to the tune of billions of dollars, all left to Americans to pay for.

The system is overwhelmed. We can't even take care of our veterans. Now there have been disturbing reports of diseases originating in Central America that have traveled with the migrants coming to our country threatening the health of people who are legally here and American citizens.

This is not isolated on the border towns. Unaccompanied minor children are being sent all over the country. In fact, I just found out last night that Health and Human Services is looking for a school to house unaccompanied minors in Houston, Texas—my hometown.

While the administration acts surprised about the crisis, the paper trail shows they knew that it was coming in January. The Department of Homeland Security in January posted online advertising for transportation contractors needed to help deal with this surge of unaccompanied minors coming into the United States.

The administration knew about this, but rather than enforce the rule of law and increase border security, the administration planned to accept the migrants and find places to house them. This current chaos is also an insult to people who come to America the legal way, but the White House has put politics over the law and what is best for the American people.

So what now? Well, deploy the National Guard to the southern border to deter future migrants from making the journey to America. It is the first duty of the Federal Government to defend the sovereignty of our Nation. Appropriate money that is still going for nation-building in Iraq to fund the National Guard on our southern border. Surely, protecting our border is just as important as securing the border of Iraq. If the President won't protect the border, let the State Governors do it with the National Guard.

Second, those who have already come here should be safely reunited with their families in their native countries. The law should be changed to expedite their removal. Warehousing these children is not a compassionate response to this crisis. It will not solve the crisis; it will only grow.

The President of the United States should be the first to say to the world: The rule of law will be enforced in the United States. Do not try to beat the system. Come to the United States the legal way or not at all.

But the administration is missing in action in this crisis. It is true the President is going to Texas this week, but he is going down there to raise money for a campaign. He is not going near the border. Maybe it is just too dangerous to go to the Texas-Mexico border.

And that's just the way it is.

RECOGNIZING THE REAGAN HIGH SCHOOL MARCHING BAND FROM PFAFFTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a Band of Raiders that successfully marched on Washington last week.

The Reagan High School Marching Band came to D.C. from Pfafftown, North Carolina, one of only 14 bands chosen to participate in the National Independence Day Parade.

Director Andrew Craft gives life to the band's philosophy that "we must create strong musicians before we can expect a strong music ensemble." The

band's music statement emphasizes performance excellence, and excellence's ever present companion: work ethic.

In fewer than 10 years, Reagan High School is already recognized as having one of the top school bands in North Carolina and the Nation.

The Raiders performed "America the Beautiful" for the parade. They are also proud of the Reagan High School fight song, appropriately titled, "The Great Communicator March."

It is an honor to recognize this fine organization today, and I wish them continued success in the future. With their rigorous focus and commitment to excellence, I believe we can count on a bright future for the Band of Raiders.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mrs. BLACK. Mr. Speaker, our crisis at the southern border is a direct result of the President's executive actions that have sent a message to children and families across Central America that if they cross our porous border they will be allowed to stay. In fact, the administration estimates approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children will cross our border this year alone.

This is a humanitarian crisis of this administration's own creation and a stark reminder of the President's failings when it comes to securing our border. An unsecure border presents many dangers to our national security, and the recent and dramatic rise in unaccompanied alien children along our southern border indicates an alarming ease at which our border is being crossed illegally.

Potentially worse than that, despite the administration's apparent surprise by this recent surge in border crossings by these children, on January 19 of this year, the Department of Homeland Security posted a request for information on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site seeking contractors to provide "escort services" for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The posting specifically calls for a contractor who can transport unaccompanied alien children that have been apprehended by law enforcement in the U.S. to the care of the Department of Health and Human Services.

The solicitation from January states that "there will be approximately 65,000 unaccompanied alien children in total."

□ 1215

The online posting suggests that DHS was expecting a significant increase in the number of unaccompanied alien children that it would need to transport this year.

Furthermore, the 65,000 number closely corresponds with the administration's new estimate that 60,000 unaccompanied children will come into the country illegally this year.