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No. 148

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRADLEY BYRNE 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 Janu-

ary 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.

### NOTICE

If the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, adjourns sine die on or before December 24, 2014, a final issue of the *Congressional Record* for the 113th Congress, 2nd Session, will be published on Wednesday, December 31, 2014, to permit Members to insert statements.

All material for insertion must be signed by the Member and delivered to the respective offices of the Official Reporters of Debates (Room HT-59 or S-123 of the Capitol), Monday through Friday, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. through Tuesday, December 30. The final issue will be dated Wednesday, December 31, 2014, and will be delivered on Monday, January 5, 2015.

None of the material printed in the final issue of the *Congressional Record* may contain subject matter, or relate to any event, that occurred after the sine die date.

Senators' statements should also be formatted according to the instructions at [http://webster/secretary/cong\\_\\_record.pdf](http://webster/secretary/cong__record.pdf), and submitted electronically, either on a disk to accompany the signed statement, or by e-mail to the Official Reporters of Debates at "Record@Sec.Senate.gov".

Members of the House of Representatives' statements may also be submitted electronically by e-mail, to accompany the signed statement, and formatted according to the instructions for the Extensions of Remarks template at <https://housenet.house.gov/legislative/research-and-reference/transcripts-and-records/electronic-congressional-record-inserts>. The Official Reporters will transmit to GPO the template formatted electronic file only after receipt of, and authentication with, the hard copy, and signed manuscript. Deliver statements to the Official Reporters in Room HT-59.

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By order of the Joint Committee on Printing.

CHARLES E. SCHUMER, *Chairman.*

### THANKING THE PEOPLE OF AMERICAN SAMOA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our fellow Americans and the people of American Samoa for the opportunity they gave me to serve them.

Having grown up in the small village of Vailoatai in American Samoa and having graduated from Kahuku High School in Hawaii, I never expected that the people of American Samoa would choose me to serve them in the U.S.

☐ 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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House of Representatives from the time they first elected me in 1988 until 2014.

I pay special tribute to them and to the late Paramount Chief A.U. Fuimaono, who served as American Samoa's first elected representative to Washington, D.C. Paramount Chief Fuimaono gave me the opportunity to serve as his chief of staff from 1973 to 1975, and I am grateful for all he taught me.

From 1975 to 1981, it was my honor to serve with the late Congressman Philip Burton, who was chairman of the House Subcommittee on Territorial and Insular Affairs. During my service as his chief counsel, he instructed me with drafting legislation providing for the first elected Governor and Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa and for American Samoa to be represented by a Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. I will always be grateful and thankful for the opportunity that I had to participate in such an historic undertaking for and on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

After my service with Chairman Burton, the late Senate President, Paramount Chief Letuli Toloa encouraged me to come home and *ai le pefu ma savali le ma'ama'a*, which means, come back home to "eat the dust and walk on the rocks" so that I could feel the people's pains and sufferings and so that I might be able to serve them with more meaningful purpose.

I followed his advice, and as I look back over my life of service, had I not returned to American Samoa to live among our people, it would have been impossible for the people of American Samoa to have entrusted me to serve them for nearly four decades at home and abroad.

As I now leave this great institution, Mr. Speaker, I once more express my love for the people of American Samoa and to all my fellow Americans. I also want to express my love to my dear wife, Antonina Hinanui, who is from Tahiti, and our children for standing beside me throughout my years of service.

I express my love for my late father, Eni Fa'aua'a, Sr., and my dear mother, Taulalaitufanuaimaataamali'i. I also want to thank my siblings for their unwavering support.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I publicly want to thank my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, in the House and the U.S. Senate. We have worked together in close cooperation for many years, and I will always be grateful for their steadfast friendship, as well as their constant support for the initiatives I put forward on behalf of the people of American Samoa.

I especially want to thank our fellow Democratic leader NANCY PELOSI. My service with the late Congressman Phillip Burton, who was like a father to me, led to my friendship with Congresswoman PELOSI. Congresswoman PELOSI and I have been family since our Burton days, and I am grateful

that she has been a part of my life for all these years.

I am also proud that Congresswoman PELOSI became the first woman in U.S. history to serve as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. Congresswoman PELOSI will always hold a special place in my heart.

I thank my friends from around the world, including diplomats and world leaders from Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Taiwan, both North and South Korea, China, India, Hong Kong, and elsewhere, for their friendship and support.

I also want to thank my staff in Washington, D.C., and in American Samoa for their loyalty and dedication to me, to our Nation, and to the people of American Samoa.

Above all, I thank my Heavenly Father for his guidance and protection.

I go forward, Mr. Speaker, knowing that the best is yet to come and hoping that I will be remembered for trying my best. For the times I fell short, I ask for forgiveness.

To each of my colleagues and to you, Mr. Speaker, I extend my kindest and highest regards. May God be with you always. *Fa'afetai ma ia Soifua*, meaning, in the Samoan language, thank you, and may peace be with you always.

#### CRISES IN VENEZUELA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, stability in the Western Hemisphere is in jeopardy due to the political and economic pressures occurring in Venezuela. Misguided financial decisions, attacks on entrepreneurship, and socialist policies have led the economy in Venezuela to a free fall.

With oil prices continuing to decrease, Venezuela is suffering from large budget shortfalls due to its large dependency on oil sales. To try to make up for the deficiency, the Venezuelans have a foreign debt of over \$100 billion and have had to cut its oil shipments to some Caribbean and Central American nations.

This paradigm shift can lead to an opening for the U.S. to get more involved in the region and deter the large democratic setbacks that we have experienced in recent years.

Venezuela's economic crisis is combined with its political problems and, Mr. Speaker, I rise to urge this body to stand in solidarity with the freedom-seeking people of Venezuela. Nicolas Maduro's intransigent, brutal regime continues to desperately and violently silence dissonant voices who believe in freedom, in democracy, and in respect for human rights.

Just last week, democracy advocate Maria Corina Machado was summoned to a kangaroo court in Caracas. This courageous woman was, until recently, a member of the Venezuelan National

Assembly until she was illegally removed from her seat in Congress by the Venezuelan thugs. Why was she removed from that seat? Because she spoke up for the people of Venezuela.

Before she was removed unjustly from her legislative seat, she was physically assaulted on the floor of the National Assembly. Yes, on the floor of the Venezuelan Congress, she was beaten up.

Maria Corina, despite being banned from leaving her country, continues to use the power of her voice to spread awareness about the violence and the corrupt nature of Nicolas Maduro's brutal regime.

Sadly, Mr. Speaker, her case is not an isolated incident. Earlier this year, savage repression met the thousands of students who peacefully demonstrated, seeking a better Venezuela. Maduro, in desperation, used his National Guard and paramilitary forces to savagely quash the protest. During that time, innocent people were injured, arrested, and even killed, unarmed demonstrators killed by Nicolas Maduro. Seventy-two of those students remain in prison today, as well as two mayors who are in prison and opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez, another brave voice for freedom like Maria Corina.

Here is Leopoldo Lopez. He remains in solitary confinement in Ramo Verde military prison under the poorest of conditions and without regular access to visitors and all denying his due process. His wife, children, family, and friends are not allowed to freely visit him, Mr. Speaker.

His case caused international outcry from Amnesty International, stating that the charges against him are politically motivated and an assault on dissent in Venezuela.

More recently, the United Nations working group on arbitrary detentions, along with that body's top human rights officials, demanded the release of Leopoldo Lopez as well as the release of all of those who have been detained for exercising their legitimate right to express themselves freely.

In response, the Venezuelan regime stated that the U.N. body's decision was nonbinding on them, and so these innocent civilians remain in prison.

The Venezuelan people have been met with intimidation, with violence, with imprisonment for simply calling for respect for human rights and democratic freedoms in their own country.

So the United States must stand with them in their struggle for freedom. That is why this body passed H.R. 4587, the Venezuelan Human Rights and Democracy Protection Act, in May, a bill that I authored. The bill targets Venezuelan officials by denying them visas to enter the United States, blocks their property, freezes their assets, and prohibits financial transactions of these thugs responsible for committing human rights abuses against the people of Venezuela.