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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. COLLINS of Georgia).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 22, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DOUG COLLINS 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 6, 2015, 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.

IN MEMORY OF SCOTTY PROBASCO

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, Chattanooga, Tennessee, the great State of Tennessee, and our Nation lost a wonderful man last Friday.

Scotty Probasco, my dear friend, passed away suddenly. All of this week, we have had memorials, tributes, eulogies—all justly deserved for this great man. I was wondering what I was going to say today as I put together these notes, but I want all of America to

know about this special man and my dear friend.

Scotty Probasco was born on November 26, 1928. He attended the Bright School in Chattanooga. He attended the Baylor School in Chattanooga, Dartmouth College, and then the Wharton School at Penn. He was a gifted man, a very bright man, a great businessman, but he was a giver.

As I was thinking this week as to what I was going to say about Scotty, it was what did Scotty mean to me and what did Scotty mean to our community and to our Nation.

Scotty was something else. He would walk into a room, and he would smile. I think of Scotty Probasco's smile. Always an optimist. In our profession, sometimes you have good days and bad days. Whenever I would run into Scotty, he would smile and always encourage me, but he didn't just do that with me; he did that with everyone.

As most of you all know, I proclaim Chattanooga is the greatest midsized city in America, sometimes as the greatest midsized city in the world. It is because of people like Scotty Probasco that we got there. Scotty was truly outstanding. He gave and he gave and he gave. As a community leader, whether it was the United Way or any other charity, he was always there. As a man of Christ, he was there for the First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his loving wife, Betty; by their four children, Scott, Zane, Ellen, and Ben; and by 12 wonderful grandchildren.

As I think of what our Nation needs today more than ever it is more Scotty Probascos—folks who will always accentuate the positive, who are always looking for the good in people, and who are always encouraging us to do our best.

There is always a loss when we lose a friend, and there was a great loss when Chattanooga lost Scotty Probasco last week, and we all feel that. We feel that

dearly. I feel that dearly. Yet, when I think of the generations to come and of the generosity, of the philanthropy, and of the kindness of Scotty Probasco and what that means to us as a people, this will be his legacy.

I am going to say something to him and to his great family today: Scotty Probasco, thank you, dear friend. Thank you for a job well done, and God bless you.

MIGRANTS ARE HUMAN BEINGS

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, we witnessed the most gruesome example of a story that is becoming ever more common. Hundreds of migrants are missing and feared dead—700 or more—because the smuggling boat they were packed onto capsized in the Mediterranean Ocean off the coast of Libya. It was on the front page of every paper around the world. An estimated 3,500 people died in 2014 while making the journey from North Africa to the southern coast of Europe.

Right now, along our southern border, illegal immigration is at historically low levels, but we, too, have a border that is known for smuggling, tragic losses of life, and smugglers no less brazen and no less indifferent to the lives of their human cargo than those off the Libyan coast.

With few legal options and with great opportunity for work and freedom on the other side, migrants throughout the world are risking their lives in the hopes of surviving the journey to live a better life.

During the peak of illegal immigration to this country a decade or so ago, one person died every single day, on average, when trying to come to the U.S. They died of dehydration in the desert or died in trucks or in boxcars in

□ 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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botched smuggling operations or perished as stowaways, and those are the ones we know about.

Now we hear about “La Bestia,” or “The Beast,” which is the train carrying migrants from southern Mexico to the border of our country. Think about hundreds of people, most of them children and teenagers, clinging to the outside of a moving train while they are preyed upon by smugglers, sexual predators, and every kind of deviant.

The migrants who are fleeing violence and poverty and gang- and drug lord-infested communities in Central America, like those fleeing African and Asian countries, are willing to literally risk life and limb for the slim chance of a better life on this side.

Europe is responding to the migrant crisis by committing to more rescue operations. The rightwing, anti-immigration parties across Europe see the crisis as validation for their call to build a big wall around “fortress Europe.” There are a few people here in this Congress, in this building, who want to build a wall just like theirs.

Most people in Europe understand that building civil society and stable economies in the Southern Hemisphere is the best way to entice people to stay home. Foreign aid and international economic development are not dirty words in Europe the way they are here.

In the U.S., the policies set in Washington directly relate to the instability of neighboring countries in Central America, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Trade policies initiated here in this country have had devastating consequences in rural areas across our hemisphere, driving people from the land and driving people into drug cultivation. It is our insatiable appetite here in the United States for illegal drugs, funded with our dollar bills and enforced with U.S. guns, that creates and maintains a lot of the instability and chaos that drives people from their homes to America. Yet almost every budget that is considered in this Congress cuts mental health and drug counseling, addiction treatment and prevention, and does little to address our role in fueling instability.

With specific regard to immigration and asylum, in this Congress, we are debating laws to make it harder for children to apply for asylum and laws to make it easier to deport children or to put families into lengthy and expensive detention.

To add insult to injury, the Judiciary Committee just approved a measure to allow those who want to homeschool their children but who are prevented from doing so by their own government to be considered as a special class of oppressed victims to be considered eligible to apply for political asylum in the U.S. For the people from Germany and Sweden who want to homeschool their children, that is the kind of oppression that Congress responds to—people from Central America whose governments are unwilling or unable to protect children from murder and sexual assault, not so much.

The reality is that we need to do more to engage and strengthen our neighbors; we need to do much more to make sure that the actions, trade, and consumption of our people are helping, not hurting; and we need to do much more to make sure that we have secure borders by also remembering to put doors on those borders so that people can come with visas in a controlled way and not risking their lives with smugglers.

First and foremost, we must remember the message that Pope Francis reminded us of when he said of those who drowned in the ocean: “They are men and women like us, our brothers seeking a better life, starving, persecuted, wounded, exploited, victims of war. They were looking for a better life.”

Let us not forget that migrants are human beings.

HONORING FORMER BRAZOS COUNTY JUDGE RANDY SIMS

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

Mr. FLORES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Brazos County Judge Randy Sims, who passed away on April 2 of this year.

Judge Sims served the Brazos Valley community for decades. He served as the Brazos County commissioner of precinct 3 from 1972 to 1976 and again from 1989 to 2001. He also served on the Bryan City Council from 1987 to 1988. Lastly, he served as the Brazos County judge from 2003 to 2010.

Arthur Randolph Sims was born in Houston on July 31, 1939. He graduated from Stephen F. Austin High School. During his high school days, he was quite an athlete, playing both baseball and football. He passed up a chance to play professional baseball to get a college education. Legendary coach Bear Bryant recruited Randy to play football for Texas A&M University. Not only was Randy a top running back for Texas A&M, but he also held a long-standing record in the Southwest Conference for kicking a 52-yard field goal.

Following graduation from A&M, Randy remained in Brazos Valley. In May of 1960, he married Brenda Bryan. They were married for nearly 55 years. Randy and Brenda have one son and one daughter, and they are blessed with nine grandchildren.

In the mid-1960s, Randy opened a restaurant called Randy Sims Barbecue, which operated for 27 years. Randy was a great cook, and his restaurant carried recipes from Brenda’s dad and from Brenda’s brother, Red Bryan and Sonny Bryan.

Randy was a loving father, and he cherished his family time. He quickly learned how to balance his career in order to spend quality time with his family. Last year, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce named Randy and Brenda as its Citizens of the Year. This award was bestowed on them for their long and dedicated service to our community.

As an active community leader, Randy Sims served tirelessly on various boards and organizations, including on the State of Texas Regional Review Committee, the Presidential Library Committee, the Bryan-College Station Economic Development Corporation, the Bear Bryant Scholarship Foundation, the Brazos Valley Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, the Brazos Beautiful Initiative, the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural History, the Grace Bible Church Deacon Board, and the Brazos County 911 Board.

His service to the Brazos Valley also included serving as a Bryan ISD host volunteer, as vice president of the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, as chair of the Brazos County Health Board District, and as the chair of the Brazos County Juvenile Board.

Mr. Speaker, Randy Sims was a great leader, a dedicated public servant, and an outstanding family man. His selfless devotion to our community will be greatly missed. He will long be remembered as a great public servant to our community and as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend to his family and friends.

My wife, Gina, and I offer our deepest sympathy and our heartfelt condolences to Brenda Sims and to her family. We also lift up Randy Sims’ family and friends in our prayers.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Americans continue to pray for our country during these difficult times, for the men and women in uniform, who protect it from external threats, and for our first responders, who protect us from threats here at home.

NATIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WEEK

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

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

After working 18 years as a 911 dispatcher, I know firsthand the challenges our public safety dispatchers face, the stress that they are put under, and the critical importance of their work. This is why, last week, I was proud to introduce a resolution commemorating National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

I remember working the graveyard shift four floors below ground and taking calls from people from all walks of life, often during their most vulnerable moments. 911 dispatchers hear it all. They are the first point of contact for public safety, and no matter the crisis, losing control is simply not an option.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week also provides us with the opportunity to remind our constituents of the importance of keeping emergency lines open for just that—emergencies. 911 isn’t an information line, and local governments have limited resources.