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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOODALL).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 23, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROB WOODALL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

Reverend Terry Ribble, Grace Bible Church, Dunmore, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Our gracious Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence today acknowledging that You alone are God and worthy of all worship.

We declare that You are the Creator and Sustainer of all things and the one who provides the means of forgiveness to all mankind.

We recognize Your sovereign rule over Heaven and Earth and that we, Your created beings, are Your stewards.

Father, we thank You that You allow us to live in a nation where everyone has freedom to worship You according to the dictates of their own hearts.

We pray for wisdom for our elected officials. Give them the ability to discern the times in which we live and to see the consequences of their actions. Guide them in making decisions that will serve our Nation best.

May Your spirit move across our land, bringing a new spiritual awakening.

Father, cause Your face to shine upon our Nation and give us peace.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND TERRY RIBBLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. RIBBLE) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RIBBLE. Mr. Speaker, as much as I am tempted to tell stories about my brother this morning, I will digress. It is my honor this morning to welcome as our guest chaplain my brother, Pastor Terry Ribble.

It is no surprise to me to find Terry in the full-time ministry. For as long as I can remember, he possessed the heart of a pastor. Terry left home at the age of 18 to go into foreign missions. Years later, he returned to the United States with his wife, Madeline, and has spent his entire life in full-time pastoral service. No one who knows my family is taken aback by his chosen work. Today, Terry is the senior pastor at Grace Bible Church in Dunmore, Pennsylvania. He possesses the acumen, compassion, and intellect uniquely suited for this purpose.

The work that churches like his do in our communities changes and affects the lives of thousands of Americans as they reach out to the less fortunate, the sick, and the hungry, improving the lives of whom they touch. They enrich our communities.

I have watched Terry do all of these things. I am proud of him and of his work, and I thank him for his service today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I am so thrilled we are beginning our day talking about doing good things for other people. Today, I rise to recognize and to pay tribute to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Tomorrow, April 24, is recognized as Federation Day, and it is the 125th anniversary of the Women's Club Federation. This organization has such an interesting beginning.

Jane Croly, who was a journalist, was denied attendance at a dinner in New York to honor Charles Dickens, and she was denied because of her gender. So she got busy with that, and she organized a women's club convention. On April 24, 1890, 63 clubs from around the country came together to form the Federation to focus on helping our communities. They have over 90,000

□ 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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members, and, last year, they did 100,000 different community service projects with 4.5 million volunteer hours.

They are coming to Tennessee in June for their convention. We look forward to welcoming them and to celebrating doing good for other people.

JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING ACT

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the Senate's action yesterday on the passage of the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, and I urge the House leadership to bring this legislation up for final passage.

The measures included in this trafficking package will provide survivors of human trafficking the desperately needed resources and services to recover and rebuild their lives and to put traffickers and buyers behind bars.

I am thrilled this package of bills also includes three pieces of legislation I am proud to be leading in the House, including the HERO Act, which trains wounded military veterans to aid law enforcement in investigating child exploitation; the Rape Survivor Child Custody Act, which encourages States to allow a woman to terminate the parental rights of a rapist; and my friend Representative RENEE ELLMERS' bill, which I am proud to colead, to train health care providers in identifying and assisting victims of trafficking.

Survivors of child exploitation, rape, and trafficking have waited long enough. They need health, housing, and legal services now. They need legal and civil protections now. I urge the House to bring the Senate's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act up for a vote without delay.

PETE WHEELER AND JAY SHAW

(Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember two great civil servants from the great State of Georgia who passed away this week: Pete Wheeler, commissioner of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, and former State representative and transportation board member Jay Shaw.

Mr. Wheeler served in the Army infantry and in the Georgia Army National Guard, retiring as a brigadier general and receiving several awards for his service, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars Silver and Gold Medals of Merit. He was a longtime attorney who used his past military service to advocate on behalf of veterans in Georgia. Mr. Wheeler served as VA commissioner for 61 years. If you couldn't get

it done any other way, you just called Pete.

Mr. Shaw began his public service as mayor of Lakeland for 10 years. He also served in the Georgia House of Representatives, supporting improvements to the transportation system in Georgia. Mr. Shaw was an active member of the Georgia State Transportation Board and served as its chairman in the past.

These two Georgians did so much for our great State, and I offer my condolences to their families and friends, and I would like to thank them for their service.

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THIS GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT ITS CITIZENS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, this morning, we will be addressing the issue of cybersecurity, one of the responsibilities of the Homeland Security Department and of the Homeland Security Committee.

In a briefing, many of us had the opportunity to hear a number of challenging and difficult representations regarding the gyrocopter. Let me simply say that the responsibility of this Nation and of this government is to protect its citizens, and I am appalled at what seems to be the inability or the inaction of certain agencies.

I stand today on the floor of the House to say that it is intolerable and unacceptable when tourists and Americans come to their capital. I want them to expect the highest grade of security for their families, for their peace of mind. The Commander in Chief resides in Washington, D.C. That Commander in Chief has the right to have the highest degree of security.

I would ask, Mr. Speaker, that we immediately demand a response from the appropriate agencies so that nothing of this kind happens ever again.

CONGRATULATING STUDENTS FROM HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. MASSIE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and to congratulate the students from Highlands High School in Fort Thomas, Kentucky.

These hard-working students in my district recently won the We the People State-level competition and will represent the State of Kentucky in the national competition this weekend in Washington, D.C.

The We the People program is a project of the Center for Civic Education. It works to further students' knowledge of constitutional history and government, and it gives students a foundation in civics education that will prepare them to be effective future leaders. The program sponsors student

debates and discussions of issues, such as the similarities between the United States Congress and the British Parliament, the differences between the Constitution and the Articles of Confederation, and the merits of the anti-Federalist arguments versus those of the Federalists.

I am proud of these students' hard work and dedication. I wish them all the best in their competition this weekend and in all of their future endeavors.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

(Mr. DOLD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, as I stand before you today, it is with a heavy heart that I think back to the events and to the atrocities that began 100 years ago.

This week, millions of us will gather around the world to mark the centennial of the Armenian genocide. Today, I stand to remember the 1.5 million Armenians who perished from 1915 to 1923.

As a crime against all humanity, the Armenian genocide has left an indelible mark on all of us. Unfortunately, Turkey, the successor to the Ottoman Empire, has never accepted responsibility for these atrocities. Instead, Turkey continues to hide behind the bullying tactics that conceal violations of human rights.

As a world leader and as a country that stands for freedom and justice for all, we must recognize the events that occurred and work to change the policies that ignore the actions of the Ottoman Empire against the people of Armenia. The continued campaign of denial sets a dangerous precedent that makes future atrocities and genocides more likely. As the greatest force for human dignity in the world, the United States is long overdue to stand with the Armenian people. We cannot continue to play politics with something that is this important.

For me, it is incredibly disappointing that the administration will not follow in the footsteps of many world leaders, most recently those of Germany, Austria, and the Vatican, who have recognized this genocide on its 100th anniversary.

CYBERSECURITY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during a time when our digital world is so insecure, new policies are needed to help defend against cyber attacks. The attacks against Sony Pictures, Target, and Anthem are just a few of the most recent examples.

According to a report released by the Center for Strategic and International