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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

July 21, 2015.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CARLOS CURBELO 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 1:50 p.m.

GEORGE W. BUSH SPEAKER'S FEE

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

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, July 9, I saw a report on ABC News that former President George W. Bush charged \$100,000 to speak at a charity fundraiser for military veterans wounded in Iraq and Afghanistan. I was disappointed to learn that a President who sent thousands of Americans to die in an unnecessary war justified by manipulated intelligence would charge a fee to speak at a fundraiser for wounded veterans.

ABC also reported that, in addition to charging \$100,000 to speak at the charity: "The former President was also provided with a private jet to travel to Houston at a cost of \$20,000."

Further, ABC News reported: "One of the wounded vets who served on the charity board told ABC News he was outraged that his former commander in chief would charge any fee to speak on behalf of men and women he ordered into harm's way."

"For him to be paid to raise money for veterans that were wounded in combat under his orders, I don't think that's right," said former Marine Eddie Wright.

Eddie Wright, Mr. Speaker, lost both hands in a rocket attack in Fallujah in Iraq in the year 2004.

This is so disappointing and outrageous. These veterans have been severely wounded, and the President that led us into an unjustified war charges \$100,000 to be in their presence. That is wrong, Mr. Speaker. That is really, really wrong.

Many of these wounded veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan live in the Third District in North Carolina, which I have the privilege to represent. For years, I have felt deep regret over my vote to go into Iraq; and to atone for that, I have publicly and privately apologized and signed over 11,000 letters to families who lost loved ones in Afghanistan and Iraq because of my mistake. President Bush and Vice President Cheney have never publicly apologized to the families for the unnecessary war they began.

Mr. Speaker, I think my friend Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, who was chief of staff to former Secretary of State Colin Powell, was right about the Iraq war. On MSNBC a couple of months ago, Colonel Wilkerson stated: "The intelligence was fixed, and everyone should know that by now. It was a failure of the intelligence agencies, but it was also a failure of the political peo-

ple who manipulated the intelligence failure to their own benefit."

He further stated: "It destroyed the balance of power in the Gulf and produced what we have today, the chaos we have today: al Qaeda in Iraq—never there until we invaded; ISIS—never there until we invaded; the mess we have in Yemen. Everything that's happening in the Middle East today can be attributed to our having destroyed the balance of power that we had carefully maintained for a half a century with the invasion in 2003. It was a disaster."

I have a lot of respect for Colonel Wilkerson because he is telling the truth when he made this statement to MSNBC.

Let me repeat the words of Marine Eddie Wright, who lost both hands in Iraq: "For him," President Bush, "to be paid to raise money for veterans that were wounded . . . under his orders, I don't think that's right."

Mr. Speaker, it is not right; and I will add my own thoughts and use the word "shameful," that the former President and his administration, who created an unnecessary war and sent our troops over there to die and also to be wounded, should not charge one dime to go help them out now.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask God to bless America.

THE CHATTANOOGA 5

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, a gunman with a heart fatally bent on mischief and with malice aforethought unleashed hell in Chattanooga last Thursday. The killer shot up an Armed Forces recruiting center and then drove to a Navy Reserve center and continued his shooting spree. Five warriors were caught in the gunman's furious rampage and were killed. The killer, who once followed an al Qaeda cleric online, wounded three others.

□ 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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To kill the very people who devote their lives to keeping our country safe is ironically and tragically sad. They were fathers, boyfriends, sons, brothers, and friends whose lives were robbed.

The fallen were:

Gunnery Sergeant Thomas J. Sullivan, United States Marine Corps. He was from Massachusetts. Tommy, as his buddies and family called him, was deployed twice during the Iraq war and received two Purple Hearts. He had been enlisted for almost 18 years. The Sullivan family owns a local bar and restaurant in Springfield, Massachusetts, and pictures of red, white, and blue ribbons memorialize the veteran on the restaurants's Facebook page. He was an avid Boston sports fan who loved Boston-based bands and musicians. A friend said: "He was a short guy, but his personality was a lot bigger than his height. You couldn't just not like Tom." He was 41.

Lance Corporal Squire "Skip" Wells, United States Marine Corps. He was from Cobb County, Georgia, and the service was in his blood. He was a student attending Georgia Southern University when he decided to follow in the footsteps of his family and enlist. God and country flowed deep in his veins. On Thursday, Skip had been texting with his girlfriend of 2½ years about her upcoming visit to Chattanooga. The last text he sent her was two words in capitalized letters that read, "active shooter." She tried desperately to reach him, but she did not learn about the murders until the next day. He was in his early twenties.

Sergeant Carson A. Holmquist, United States Marine Corps. A patriotic outdoorsman from a small town in Grantsburg, Wisconsin, he joined the Marines right out of high school and was taken to the battlefields in a foreign land. He was deployed to Afghanistan twice as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. It was reported that he was so proud of being a marine that, when he finished boot camp, he went right back to the small town of Grantsburg to visit his high school, dressed in his Marine uniform. He and his wife had a young son and were expecting another. He was 25.

Staff Sergeant David A. Wyatt, United States Marine Corps. He was a native of Russellville, Arkansas. He was a husband and a father. He served one tour of duty in Iraq and one in Afghanistan. He was described as a leader, a mentor, quick to help, and was easy to approach. Wyatt was a father who was overjoyed about the upcoming birth of his second child. He also planned to serve at least 20 years in the military. He was 35.

Petty Officer Second Class Randall Smith, United States Navy. He was a former high school baseball star from Paulding, Ohio, joined the Navy in 2010. He was a pitcher for the Paulding High School Panthers, and he accepted a scholarship to play baseball at Defiance College in Ohio. After a shoulder

injury, Smith decided to forego sports and serve his Nation. He was a father and a husband. He had three little girls. According to his Facebook page, he was a passionate sports fan. He was passionate about the United States Women's Soccer team and their World Cup win. He had even a love for the Houston Astros. He was 26.

Good men, good warriors, good Americans—all died before their time. This was a senseless and callous act of hate.

Even though these military facilities in Chattanooga are riddled with bullet holes, they are still a steadfast symbol of the patriotism of our military.

There are not enough tears or words to convey the sorrow that has engulfed this Nation. These volunteers that serve our country are the best that this Nation has, and we continue to mourn their loss and pray for their families and friends.

Ronald Reagan said it best: "We will always remember. We will always be proud. We will always be prepared, so we may always be free."

The Chattanooga 5.

And that is just the way it is.

CARING FOR OUR VETERANS HERE AT HOME

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize John Enstrom of Elk River and the Disabled Veterans of America organization for all the incredible work they have done and continue to do for our Nation's veterans.

On August 5, John is hosting a charity fishing event in Ramsey, Minnesota. He is hosting the event for disabled American veterans. Along with friends and volunteers, John plans to bring 150 wounded veterans to a private lake for a great day of fishing, games, and simply enjoying the great Minnesota outdoors.

Our veterans have stood for our country's freedom and individual liberty, all the while putting their lives on the line. Disabled veterans have sacrificed in order to protect and serve our great Nation.

It is an extraordinary kind of person who cares for others so deeply. I would like to thank John and the Disabled Veterans of America not only for all the work they have done for this event, but for also recognizing that veterans need and deserve to be cared for once they return home.

SMALL COMMUNITY BANKS HARMED BY DODD-FRANK

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on the fifth anniversary of Dodd-Frank to share a story from a small community bank that has three locations in my district. This bank is struggling due to the additional regulation that Dodd-Frank has imposed on them.

They were forced to hire a full-time compliance director in addition to re-

taining two outside compliance firms. This has cost the bank nearly \$100,000 more a year. In addition, numerous other staff members now have to take time away from revenue-generating activities to satisfy the compliance regulations of Dodd-Frank.

They told me: "Compliance has always been a cost that is just a part of our business. However, since Dodd-Frank, this cost has expanded greatly. Unfortunately, since there is no offsetting revenue for the expanding cost, we are forced to consider passing on costs to our customers with additional fees."

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could say this is an isolated occurrence, but a recent study shows that Dodd-Frank has added 61 million hours of paperwork and more than \$24 billion in final rule costs for the financial industry in this country. Nationwide, we have lost approximately 1500 community banks already.

The 5 years since Dodd-Frank was signed into law have been marked with 5 years of failure.

UNDEFEATED SEASON ENDS WITH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and congratulate the Anoka-Hennepin Mustangs for being named the 2015 Minnesota State champions in physically impaired adapted softball.

Comprised of students from Andover, Anoka, Blaine, Champlin Park, and Coon Rapids, these players were a force to be reckoned with at this year's State championship tournament. Having earned the number one seed, the Mustangs went into the tournament boasting 11 wins, with more than 167 runs scored during this season.

With the momentum of an undefeated season, the Mustangs cruised to victory at the recent State championship. After scoring nearly a dozen runs and completing a few notable double plays, the Mustangs won the championship game with an 11-8 victory over the Rochester Raiders. Even more impressive, the Mustang championship win ended a 6-year winning streak for the previous defending champions.

I ask that this body join me in congratulating these tremendous athletes.

Well done.

SIDING WITH AMERICAN FARMERS

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of the House Agriculture and the Energy and Commerce Committees' actions on the Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015, of which I am a cosponsor.

Biotechnology is nothing new. Norman Borlaug, a researcher and legend in my home State, was the "father of the Green Revolution" while at the University of Minnesota due to his groundbreaking work on high-yield crops that have fed billions of people around the globe.