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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. WEBSTER of Florida).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 12, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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.

### MAY IS STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL MONTH

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

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, we understand that the Speaker of the House is receiving a special visitor today: the heavyweight, undisputed

champion and leader of the Republican Party, the person who speaks for every single House Republican, the Presidential nominee of the Republican Party. And just so that we are clear on how important this visit is, I hold in my hand the actual menu from the cafeteria today. This is the menu from the Senate Carryout, and today's special is—wait for it—taco salad. They even have little pictures of the taco salad.

The Republicans love the Hispanics so much that they put taco salads on the menu so that we can honor the love and affection that their Presidential nominee feels for each and every one of us—the Hispanics. I am sure that that love and respect extends to all the working men and women in the cafeterias, not just one part of Hispanics, but the other working men and women who are part of the Blacks, the Asian, and the Whites. They work hard every single day in the cafeterias of the Capitol and the surrounding buildings. It is not something I am proud of, but the reality is many of them don't even make a living wage.

Oh, and, look, it says here that May is Strawberry Festival Month in the cafeterias. Now, let's see if we can guess who picks the strawberries that will be served in the cafeterias, shall we, Mr. Speaker? I would venture to guess that every single strawberry that is served on yogurt to Members of Congress will have passed through the hands—rough hands—of an undocumented immigrant. Whether it was growing them, picking them, packing them, shipping them, unloading them, or some other part of the process, the Strawberry Festival Month really means “undocumented farm worker month.”

We are all complicit. Any food you eat will have been touched by undocumented immigrant hands, immigrants that the Republican Party wants to remove from our country by the millions—11 million people, their families,

their businesses, their homeownership, their consumer buying power, their U.S. citizen wives and husbands, and their U.S. citizen children. They have all got to go.

Now, it was less than 2 years ago, upstairs in this building, that the respected chairman of the House Rules Committee said to me, in a committee hearing, that he was unaware of anyone in the Republican Party, he said: “There is no one in responsible Republican leadership who would suggest or support mass deportation.” He said it was “inflammatory” for me to suggest otherwise, just 18 months ago. He said it was “extremely distasteful” of anyone, including me, to suggest Republicans would favor driving out 11 million immigrants.

Now the standard bearer, the leader, the nominee, Orange Chief—El Jefe Anaranjado—who is leading the party into the November election is calling for the mass deportation or removal of 11 million people, in detail, out loud.

So as we eat our taco salads today or have a sweet, delicious strawberry, I hope my colleagues chew on the words and keep in mind the philosophy and values your leader is espousing on the campaign trail on your behalf, the de facto head of the Republican Party.

Just taste the immigrant labor, the hands of Mexicans—and a lot of other people with and without papers—that went into every morsel of the food that you taste today. I also want you to think about the nearly 1 million American-born Latino citizens who have turned 18 in the last 12 months and the half a million more that will turn 18 before November.

Think about the 82,000 Puerto Ricans who have left the island of Puerto Rico—most of them moving to Florida, a very important electoral State—and the tens of thousands more who will arrive before the election as citizens of the United States.

As you eat your last strawberry, please, please, please, Mr. Speaker, I

□ 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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hope you will think about the 25 percent increase that we have seen in the first quarter of 2016 in citizenship applications, the 8.8 million eligible immigrants who can apply for citizenship today, and the thousands more who will be eligible before November.

Sure, you can chomp on your taco salad, Mr. Speaker, and you can concentrate on the 11 million or so undocumented immigrants who are daily targets of lies and slander on the campaign trail, but come November, the Latinos you will really have to worry about are the more than 27 million Latino citizens, like me, of the U.S.A. who are your constituents, who are eligible to vote, and who are fired up to vote more and more with each passing day.

#### ATROCITIES IN SYRIA AND AMERICA'S MISSION TO BE AN EXEMPLAR OF SELF-GOVERNANCE

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

Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, Bill Clinton once said, when asked what his greatest regret was of his time in office, that his greatest regret was the failure to act on the genocide in Rwanda.

Mr. Speaker, today, over a half million Syrians have been killed by a brutal dictator, Bashar al-Assad. What I think is important to note is that a lot of times when we talk about something happening somewhere that is not here, we think of it as something that doesn't affect us because these people may look different, maybe they speak a different language, maybe they worship a different God, and, frankly, it is oceans away.

Mr. Speaker, right here is just a picture of a number of Syrian children. These are children who are having their lives torn up by war. It is children, in fact, just like these that in past years were gassed by Bashar al-Assad.

I want you to imagine that, gassing. As you drown, knowing that you are taking among your last breaths; as your mom and dad sit there and are affected by the same chemical weapons and are watching their children die. It is tragic. That was done indiscriminately by Bashar al-Assad.

But that is nothing new for him. Bashar al-Assad learned from the greatest man he knew—his father—who leveled cities and killed tens of thousands who dared disobey his will, the will of one man.

So in 2011, these generations of repressed Syrians who do not like to live under dictatorships—humanity does not like to be oppressed and live under dictatorship—these millions of citizens rose up and began to peacefully protest their dictator. How did the dictator respond? Did he talk about reforms that could be done to government? No. He responded with tanks, with armies, and with murder. He responded with chemical weapons.

The United States and other countries were rightfully concerned with what was going on, and a red line was placed by our President. That red line was not adhered to. Bashar al-Assad got away with using chemical weapons at no cost and no penalty. So this brutal civil war continues.

Children and women are among the chief targets, by the way, of the regime because they believe it inflicts more pain per capita on the population than killing a man. So they target them specifically. They continue to die.

The West thought they had negotiated—and the President thought he had negotiated—a cease-fire; but yet, in the end of April, a Doctors Without Borders hospital was bombed. Was it the one we hear so much about in Afghanistan, the mistaken bombing of a Doctors Without Borders hospital that was tragically done by the American military? No, not that one, as tragic as that is. But it was the regime of Bashar al-Assad that killed over 60 people in a Doctors Without Borders hospital, despite a cease-fire that is occurring. Now we are back at the table hoping to make this one cease-fire actually stick.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, in this campaign season people have been seductively lured into the idea that America's responsibility now is just to come home and lick our wounds. I believe that America has a mission that is a God-inspired mission. It is a mission to be an example to billions of people of self-governance and to be an example of human rights and dignity. But it is also in our self-interest to be involved.

What has the brutal dictator Bashar al-Assad done besides tragically kill almost a half million people, as if that is not bad enough? Bashar al-Assad has created an area for ISIS to spawn and breed. ISIS wouldn't be in existence today if Syria was a stable country potentially under democratic rule because the people wouldn't turn to it. Bashar al-Assad created and incubates ISIS—fact. Bashar al-Assad brutalizes his people, and you can not fix the situation in Syria with Bashar al-Assad remaining in existence.

It may not be popular to say. People may say: Do you want to intervene in another Middle Eastern war? No, I don't want to. But I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, America has a mission; and if we forget that mission, if we wake up and if the President some day in an interview says, "My greatest regret was inaction in Syria," that is on all of us, too.

These children want to be teachers, they want to be police officers, and they want to have kids of their own some day. Don't forget their voices.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF DR. PHIL SMITH OF NEBRASKA MEDICINE

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

Mr. ASHFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the retirement of Dr. Phil Smith of Nebraska Medicine at the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

Over 35 years ago, Dr. Smith established the Nebraska Infection Control Network to educate healthcare professionals regarding infection control in nursing homes and hospitals.

Dr. Smith is a pioneer in the field of infectious disease, and his perseverance and dedication led to the establishment of the very critical biocontainment unit at Nebraska Medicine in 2005. Commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control, the unit was at ground zero in the fight against Ebola, providing Ebola training to more than 30 of the country's top hospitals while successfully treating several Ebola patients. Dr. Rick Sacra, who contracted the disease in West Africa, credits the Omaha unit with saving his life.

Recently, Dr. Smith codeveloped the Center for Preparedness Education, a coalition between the University of Nebraska Medical Center and Creighton University Medical Center.

It is very difficult to sum up this career that he has had. What is critical, though, is that the Ebola problem and crisis is not going away.

The University of Nebraska Medical Center, the community that I come from, Omaha, Nebraska, and the entire State of Nebraska are committed to fighting Ebola. It will continue to do so by developing an even more significant biocontainment center, developing teaching regimens, and developing research regimens at the University of Nebraska Medical Center to fight Ebola and other infectious diseases.

It is difficult to sum up the career that Dr. Smith has had, but I will quote this. He says: "Patient care has been part of my life. It's a noble profession, and nothing beats the gratification of making a diagnosis and helping a patient."

Nothing is more critical than the treatment of the Ebola crisis at the University of Nebraska. Saving lives, creating an atmosphere for further research, and creating a facility for training healthcare professionals from around the world is the mission that the University of Nebraska has taken up.

□ 1015

Dr. Smith's contributions to Nebraska and our Nation are immeasurable, and we are grateful for his service.

Interestingly enough, the University of Nebraska biocontainment unit is now in the capable hands of Dr. Angie Hewitt, who is the daughter of one of our colleagues, Representative GENE GREEN of Texas. Dr. Hewitt will continue the work that Dr. Smith has begun and will continue to enlarge and engage the world in the fight against infectious disease.