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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. 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.

ENDING HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The SPEAKER. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. COSTELLO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 515, and I commend Congressman SMITH for his continued leadership efforts to combat human trafficking. It is an issue many of us take very, very seriously.

This Congress, the House has passed several commonsense, bipartisan pieces of legislation to end human trafficking, and we remain dedicated to finding solutions to prevent this criminal activity, to protect victims, and to prosecute those individuals who seek to exploit innocent children.

One year ago today, I spoke on this critical piece of legislation when it first came to the House floor. I am glad the Senate has finally considered it, and I am proud to be standing here again today as this legislation will finally make its way to the President's desk for his signature following the legislation's passage here in the House.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking is not a distant concept. It exists in communities across America. An estimated

300,000 young Americans are in danger of becoming victims of sex trafficking. The average age, believe it or not, is 12 to 14 years old for girls. Last year alone, my home State of Pennsylvania had a total of 106 reported cases of human trafficking and 514 calls of human trafficking violations. In fact, Pennsylvania has stepped up the fight by enacting stricter human trafficking laws, and it was named one of the top five "most improved" States by the Polaris Project.

The legislation we have passed here in the House is another step in the right direction. We have made progress, but there is more that we can and must do. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue the fight against human trafficking.

BARCLAY GROUNDS

Mr. COSTELLO of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to highlight the success of a local land preservation effort in West Chester Borough, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Barclay Grounds, located in West Chester Borough, is a beautiful property. The land has a rich history dating back to William Penn's charter from the King. Over the years, it has served as an orchard and has been utilized for agricultural purposes as well as for passive recreation activities. For over 2 years, local officials and grassroots volunteers have worked on a common mission: to preserve the Barclay Grounds for future generations.

I can recall, when I was a county commissioner, when a gentleman by the name of John Cottage, who founded the Barclay Grounds Preservation Alliance, came in to see us, and I and my then-colleagues on the Board of County Commissioners, Terence Farrell and Kathi Cozzone, decided that this was a worthwhile endeavor. We provided the seed funding, if you will, to help kickstart the grant application process for several funding streams to make sure that we would be able to preserve the Barclay Grounds.

I am pleased to stand before this country today and say that a group of local officials and local volunteers did something great in a local community that is going to preserve for future generations a really historic, cultural, and environmental gem.

I commend the dedicated officials in the West Chester community, including the West Chester Borough Council, a lot of people involved in the preservation movement, including the grant writing teams at the Natural Lands Trust, as well as the Brandywine Conservancy and many others, for their efforts to preserve this passive park.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARDY). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 4 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

With exciting news for some, disappointing for others, and remarkable for our Nation, the Members of this assembly gather to address the work that is theirs to perform.

May each Member be reminded of the responsibility before them and, amidst the heightened emotions of this day, properly and accurately discern substance from distraction.

□ 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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We thank You for the incredible gift of our representative democracy still being forged in the river of time that is American history. May the work done in the people's House through these days prove to be historically fruitful and edifying for generations of Americans to come.

May all that is done be for Your greater honor and glory.

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 North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING FLONNIE ANDERSON

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Flonnie Anderson of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This remarkable and talented woman has spent her life accomplishing things ahead of her time, from majoring in theater during the 1940s to helping desegregate a community, to starting her own theater group.

As a teacher at Parkland High School in 1970, Mrs. Anderson directed a play that starred both African American and Caucasian students, a first in the history of Forsyth County schools. As a director, she also helped integrate the theater department at Wake Forest University.

She was the first African American actress to perform with the Little Theatre of Winston-Salem. From that point on, the Little Theatre became known as a place where the African American community could be treated equally.

In recognition of her 34 years as an educator, Parkland High School in Winston-Salem has named their auditorium for Mrs. Anderson. This honor is well deserved and pays tribute to her lasting impact in the local community.

HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN MADAYA, SYRIAN

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in order to bring attention to the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Madaya, Syria.

The inhabitants of Madaya are unable to leave and are threatened daily by regime snipers and antipersonnel mines that surround their city. Over 40,000 civilians have been kept from receiving vital humanitarian aid. And, yes, this has resulted in mass starvation.

Sadly, Madaya is not unique in its suffering. There are Madayas all over Syria—cities under siege—caught in the middle of this vicious fighting, cities with inhabitants in dire need of food, water, and medical attention.

I urge Congress, the President, and the international community to do more in response to the humanitarian crisis that is going on in Syria. Enough is enough. We have to stop these tragedies from happening. It is our collective responsibility to do everything in our power; so let's do it.

IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEAL SUPPORTS TERRORISM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the fantasy Iranian nuclear deal went into effect on January 16, giving the Iranian regime billions of dollars to support terrorism, expand its ballistic missile program, and threaten American families with attacks.

Just 2 weeks ago Secretary of State John Kerry admitted that some of the funds would go to terrorist groups. What is worse, the Secretary believes there is no way to prevent the funds from supporting terrorist activity to kill American families. We must and should be clear that the United States has zero tolerance for terrorism or regimes that support terrorism.

I am grateful to cosponsor the bipartisan Zero Tolerance for Terror Act. This critical legislation gives Congress the ability to act quickly and effectively when Iran violates the existing restrictions. We should take every effort to protect American families and our Persian Gulf allies from an irrational regime that promotes "death to America, death to Israel."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and may the President, by his actions, never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

GREENSBORO FOUR SIT-INS

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

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, yesterday marked the anniversary of the Greensboro Four sit-ins.

Fifty-six years ago four North Carolina A&T freshmen decided to peacefully challenge racial segregation in my hometown of Greensboro and the community I'm proud to serve in Congress.

Joseph McNeil, Jibreel Khazan, Franklin McCain, and David Richmond sat at a whites-only lunch counter inside a Greensboro Woolworth store. These young men sparked a wave of peaceful protests that spanned the State and Nation, helping to put an end to racial segregation.

I remember traveling through North Carolina as a young girl and going to the back door of restaurants because I couldn't sit inside. Because of the Greensboro Four, my children, my grandchildren, and future generations won't have to share in my experience.

My bipartisan resolution, H. Res. 128, honors these four courageous men and recognizes their impact. It has the support of 62 Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle.

Today I am calling on my colleagues to support and pass this resolution in honor of the Greensboro Four and all of the students who stood up for equality by sitting down to end racial segregation.

ROADBLOCK HUMAN TRAFFICKING

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak up on behalf of the millions of people across the world who suffer under the injustice of modern-day slavery.

Last month the House observed Human Trafficking Awareness Month to shine light on this horrific crime. The injustice of human trafficking knows no political party or geographical boundary. It happens right in our backyards.

Yesterday the House took important steps in passing two bills to strengthen our response to trafficking. I have also recently introduced H.R. 4406, the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, legislation which ensures the Department of Labor effectively trains its employees to recognize and respond to the illegal trade of people for exploitation or commercial gain.

It will take close coordination from stakeholders at every level to eradicate this unthinkable crime. Together, our voices and actions can help bring freedom to the oppressed.

FIGHT TO CURE CANCER

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

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago President Obama in this very Chamber called for a national moonshot initiative to fight cancer. Yesterday the White House proposed to allocate \$1 billion over the next 2 years to