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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. JOHNSON of Louisiana).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 25, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE JOHNSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING THADDEUS STEVENS COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I had the privilege of touring Pennsylvania's only State-owned 2-year technical college, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology, named after an individual, a former Member of Congress that served in the era of Abraham Lincoln in this Chamber. I was pleased to be in Lan-

caster with my colleague, Representative SMUCKER.

Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology provides a bridge out of poverty for some of the poorest citizens of Pennsylvania through a high-skill, high-wage technical education. Graduates are filling the skills gap in America, as there is a 99 percent placement for graduates of its high-demand programs.

Founded in 1905, Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology educates Pennsylvania's economically and socially disadvantaged students as well as other qualified students for skilled employment in a diverse and ever-changing workforce. It offers 22 innovative technical-based majors that educate students for numerous job opportunities. From architecture to automotive studies and from masonry to mechanical engineering, there are many career paths for students to pursue.

The hands-on nature of the program allows students exposure to the experience, problem-solving ability, and skills that will be used throughout their careers. Many students enter the workforce after their studies, while others may choose to pursue higher level degrees at 4-year colleges and universities.

Thaddeus Stevens College is also aware that the cost of education often places a financial strain on both the student and their family. Grant programs are offered to assist students who are financially disadvantaged to serve a rich diversity of students.

Last month, I was proud this House unanimously approved my bill, the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. The legislation aims to restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity because all Americans deserve a good-paying, family-sustaining job.

CTE has established itself as a path that many high-achieving students choose in pursuit of industry certifi-

cation and hands-on skills that they can use right out of high school in skills-based education programs or in colleges like Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology. By modernizing the Federal investment in CTE programs, we will be able to connect more educators with industry stakeholders and close the skills gap that is in this country. There are good jobs out there, but people need to be qualified to get them.

I have proudly championed the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act because it puts emphasis on advancing policies and promotes good-paying jobs, and it works to see that everyone from all walks of life can have the opportunity to succeed. Mr. Speaker, I witnessed this firsthand at Thaddeus Stevens College.

This school is an outstanding example of the transformative power of education. The college is a national leader in technical workforce development, and it works to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty for millions of students through career and technical education.

For the fourth consecutive time, The Aspen Institute has named Thaddeus Stevens as the top 2-year technical college in Pennsylvania. I congratulate the school and all of its students. It is truly a shining example of strong career and technical education programs at work, and its graduates enter the workforce armed with the knowledge and skills they need to succeed and pursue the American Dream. They are learning to earn.

RECOGNIZING GRANDPARENTS AS CLOSE FAMILY MEMBERS

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

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I think the President has a lot to learn about families. In my opinion, families

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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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should be protected and families should remain intact wherever possible, but it is clear the President has other notions.

In the President's world, families can and should be cut off from healthcare coverage. So he is working with Republicans to take coverage away from 20 to 30 million Americans so they can say they made good on a campaign promise, regardless of the consequences in real people's lives.

In the President's world, children, especially his children, don't have to be honest when they apply for security clearances or disclose all their meetings they had with the Russians.

In the President's world, children and grandchildren can be convenient political props, like when a 6-year-old granddaughter is sent into the Oval Office to interrupt an interview with The New York Times, especially when the interview isn't going well for him.

But grandchildren and grandparents in the President's world do not have a "bona fide" family connection when it comes to being refugees. In the latest incarnation of his Muslim and refugee ban, the President excluded grandparents from the category of those close family members—only in the Republicans' mind.

Well, let me tell you something. If the President can be interrupted by his grandchild to shake up an interview that isn't going so well, I can ask my grandson to help me make a point here in Congress.

Here is Luis Andres. Luis Andres is my grandson. You see, in the Gutiérrez family, grandparents and grandchildren are pretty close family members and have a bona fide family connection. In fact, Luis Andres lives downstairs from me with his mom and dad in the ground floor unit of a two-flat in Portage Park in Chicago, and growing up with Grandma and Grandpa upstairs has distinct advantages. There is always someone to feed you, watch you, help you study, or just joke around.

Throughout much of the world and throughout American history until fairly recently, the idea that families do not include grandparents is laughable. Multiple generations live together or very nearby, and grandparents, even great-grandparents, are an integral part of the family unit and share child rearing responsibilities.

So when you are in Syria or Yemen, Central Africa or Central America, places where surviving day to day without being killed by gunmen, government, or gangs is not easy, extended, multigenerational families not only live together and support each other, occasionally they have to flee to safety together.

But not if Donald Trump has his way they don't, or at least not when it comes to coming here to America.

Thankfully, the American court system disagrees with our President on this. Hawaii sued the President again and won an injunction again, and the

Supreme Court, which would ultimately determine the fate of America's commitment to refugees and religious tolerance will determine the case later this year.

But in the meantime, over the objections of the President, grandparents are officially part of the family and have a bona fide relationship that allows them, under the law, to bypass the President's attempt to keep them out.

Thank you, courts, for recognizing and defending families and giving our President a lesson in the obvious.

Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I learned about a tragedy in San Antonio where a truck packed with immigrants was discovered and at least 10 people were killed. The truck had no ventilation or air-conditioning. There was no water for those inside who had paid a lot of money to risk their lives to live in America—10 dead and another 20 near death, some of them children, under the hot Texas sun in an apparent smuggling operation.

You see, if you cut off legal immigration channels and make people wait decades for a visa, if they are eligible to apply at all, it strengthens the hands of smugglers. If you turn asylum seekers around, in violation of our own laws and international law, those seeking freedom are driven into the arms of smugglers.

If, by going through our legal system in requesting asylum, your entire family becomes vulnerable to deportation, being sent back to a place you fled because death was a certainty, then people will pay smugglers to go around our system because there are no ways to go through it.

A border wall like the one Republicans will slip into the military spending bill this week in the House will not help matters, but only make them worse. Forcing people to enter the black market because there is no way to go through our visa system will undoubtedly increase the number of times we hear about tragedies like the one in Texas and the number of parents, grandparents, and children who lose everything because we have failed to create and maintain a functioning immigration system.

When Luis Andres turns 18 and is able to vote, just like a million young Latinos like him every year are eligible, I know he will remember which party stood for and stood by families and which ones did not. Grandparents, they are part of the American family even if the Republicans don't seem to think so.

SHARING THE STORY OF HADAR GOLDIN

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

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share and honor the story of Hadar Goldin, an Israel Defense Forces soldier who was killed by Hamas terrorists and whose remains have yet to be returned to his family.

I met Hadar's parent in south Florida earlier this year, and they told me about their son, his love of freedom that inspired his service to Israel and their just cause.

On August 1, 2014, 23-year-old Hadar was killed by Hamas terrorists. His body was then dragged away from his home and into an underground tunnel. Hamas terrorists then stripped him and left his clothing and took his body with them. For nearly 3 years, Hamas has held Hadar's remains from his parents, who merely want to give their son a proper burial.

Mr. Speaker, Israel is one of our strongest allies, our greatest ally, and our support sends a clear message to all terrorists, including Hamas, that the United States will continue to firmly stand with Israel and its people.

No parent should ever face the heartbreak of outliving a child, but those who do should expect a proper burial. Hadar's parents have been denied that basic decency by the Hamas terrorists that murdered their son. So today I am urging those holding Hadar to let him come home so that his parents can say good-bye.

SOLIDARITY WITH VENEZUELA

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Venezuela, once a beacon of economic prosperity in South America, has descended into chaos and turmoil. An oil-rich nation, it now struggles as Maduro's policies have led Venezuela to having the hemisphere's highest inflation rate, resulting in critical shortages of food and medicine, as well as the collapse of the Venezuelan currency and rampant crime.

The Maduro regime's incompetence in managing Venezuela's finances and systemic corruption has led to a crackdown on human rights and violence against democratic demonstrators. The country is lurching towards single-party, totalitarian rule.

Rather than working with the opposition to serve the interests of the Venezuelan people, Maduro is using his influence to grasp onto power, first, by having his henchmen on the Supreme Court attempt to strip the National Assembly of its powers, and now, by calling for an unelected constituent assembly to rewrite Venezuela's Constitution. This is just another attempt to usurp and replace Venezuela's Democratic National Assembly with a puppet parliament loyal only to him.

This idea was recently rejected by 98 percent of the 7.2 million Venezuelans that participated in a nonbinding referendum last week. Fortunately, the United States has been quick to show solidarity with these freedom-loving people. I am grateful for the President's show of support and his direct warning to Maduro of the strong and swift economic sanctions the United States will take if he proceeds with the constituent assembly.

The United States will no longer stand by and watch Maduro and his thugs ignore human rights and the rule of law. There is a bipartisan consensus