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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. AMODEI).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 24, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK E. AMODEI to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

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

We pray for the gift of wisdom to all with great responsibility in this House for the leadership of our Nation.

As the Members prepare to disperse to their various districts and our Nation enters a week which ends with Memorial Day, may we all retreat from the busyness of life to remember our citizen ancestors who served our Nation in the armed services.

Grant that their sacrifice of self, and for so many, of life, would inspire all of America's citizens to step forward, in whatever their path of life, to make a positive contribution to the strength of our democracy.

Bless us this day and every day, and may all that is done within these hallowed Halls 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 Florida (Mrs. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida 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 five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CONGRATULATING KAREN MCGINNIS

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and congratulate Karen McGinnis on her retirement.

For the past 20 years, Karen has served as the director for what is known as the Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response Federal Training Center, or HAMMER, which is in my district at the Hanford Site in Richland.

I have personally visited and can truly say HAMMER is a one-of-a-kind facility. I have witnessed the hands-on training they provide to Federal employees, like Hanford workers and emergency responders who are deployed throughout our Nation. The services they provide to the Tri-Cities community and the country are essential.

Karen has worked to strengthen HAMMER's partnerships with Federal and State agencies, Tribes, safety professionals, and community leaders. She focuses on worker health and preparedness, and she has a passion for employee safety. Her leadership has made HAMMER one of the premier training centers in the world. As director, Karen has facilitated the training that makes it possible for the Federal Government to fulfill its obligation to clean up the Hanford Site.

I thank Karen for her dedication to HAMMER, and I wish her the best in her retirement.

AMERICA'S FAITH IN CONGRESS

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

Mrs. MURPHY of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the American people have little faith in Congress. They don't trust Members to work together in a bipartisan way, to put public interest above self-interest, and to do their most basic job, which is to set a budget and be fiscally responsible.

Our Nation is strongest when our democratic institutions generate confidence, not cynicism, and when our leaders inspire pride, not pessimism. That is why Congressman FITZPATRICK and I introduced the FAITH in Congress Act.

It requires House leaders to prioritize bipartisan bills over partisan ones, because we must put country over party.

It abolishes automatic pay increases for Members of Congress, and it prohibits first-class travel at taxpayer expense, because it is time we end these perks.

It enacts a simple principle called no budget, no pay, which says that if Congress doesn't pass a budget and appropriations bills on time, Members don't get paid, because the best way to stop incompetence is to stop rewarding it.

□ 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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Finally, it imposes a lifetime ban on former Members becoming lobbyists, because there should be no doubt that Members come to Congress to serve the public, not to line their own pockets.

It is up to Congress to take the tough but necessary steps to earn the public's trust. The American people's faith in Congress has been damaged, and it is our job to repair it.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERNIE SIMONS

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

Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Ernie Simons, a longtime Georgia resident, a brave hero of the Vietnam war, and a dedicated public servant who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces.

Having first served as a marine in Vietnam, Mr. Simons continued to serve as an employee of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service. During his 30 years there, he worked in a number of capacities, including as the director of the Georgia Veterans Memorial Cemetery and director of the Health and Memorials division of the Georgia Department of Veterans Service.

In April, the community renamed Veterans Drive, a road adjacent to the veterans home where Mr. Simons dedicated so many years, as Ernie Simons Veterans Way. There is perhaps no better tribute for a man who has given countless hours and his undivided attention to our local heroes than to have this road named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to please stand with me to honor the life and legacy of this Georgia hero, greatly deserving the respect of all Americans.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN AIRFORCE SERVICE PILOTS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special group who will celebrate their 75th anniversary this Saturday in Sweetwater, Texas: the Women Airforce Service Pilots.

When the forces of fascism and totalitarianism were upending the entire global order, it took every ounce of our Nation's measure and every man and woman to win World War II.

Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, 28 female pilots volunteered to form America's first female squadron. From 1942 to 1944, over 1,000 women trained to fly "the Army way" at Avenger Airfield in west Texas.

As the first women to fly American military aircraft, they logged more than 60 million flight hours, flying

every plane in the military's arsenal. They ferried equipment, towed gunnery targets, and flight-tested aircraft, serving at over 120 bases across America so we could win the war abroad.

These brave ladies were vital to the war effort and, ultimately, to our victory. Seventy-five years later, their legacy continues to inspire us all.

God bless these female freedom fighters who served with less recognition than their male counterparts at the time, but with no less honor and distinction.

God bless America, and go west Texas.

DEMOCRACY REFORM

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

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, President Trump promised to drain the swamp. In reality, he has made corruption much worse here in Washington.

Yesterday, we learned that a foreign government paid the President's personal attorney \$400,000 for a meeting with President Trump; the Secretary of the Treasury requested a government plane for his honeymoon; the VA Secretary took a \$125,000 taxpayer-funded trip to Europe with his spouse; and the Republicans who control Congress have done nothing about it. They are putting politics ahead of our country by turning a blind eye to this administration's corruption, and they are focusing on getting things done for their wealthy donors instead of their constituents.

The culture of corruption must end. That is why, early this week, Democrats introduced A Better Deal for our democracy: a bold, comprehensive proposal to bolster our Nation's ethics laws, overhaul our campaign finance system, and create more transparency and accountability so government works for all of the American people.

That is the Better Deal the American people deserve; that is the Better Deal Democrats will deliver; and that is why Democrats are fighting for it.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER MARK DALLAS

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

Mr. KINZINGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Dixon Police Officer Mark Dallas, for his heroic actions during the shooting incident at Dixon High School last week.

On the morning of Wednesday, May 16, a student opened fire inside Dixon High School. Without hesitation, Officer Dallas chased down the student and returned fire. He disarmed the shooter and took him into custody.

The swift, decisive actions by Officer Dallas demonstrate the difference between a job and one's calling. His fearless sacrifices are core to who Mark is and who God called him to be.

As more details emerge surrounding the shooting incident, one thing is certain: Officer Dallas is an American hero. He stepped into harm's way to prevent a terrible tragedy and saved countless lives. He heroically protected the students, including his own son Josh, the faculty and staff, and the entire Dixon community.

Mr. Speaker, it is the men and women of our law enforcement, like Officer Dallas, who embody the very best of who we are as a nation. The courageous service of America's finest is truly the thin blue line between order and chaos.

On behalf of the 16th District of Illinois, I thank Officer Mark Dallas for his bravery and heroism, for his steadfast commitment to protection and serving, for being a role model to so many, and for making us all Dixon strong.

STOP HIDING THE TRUTH

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, while Democrats continue to focus on better jobs, better wages, and a better future for hardworking Americans, Republican indifference to the chaos, crisis, and corruption in this town, for example, at the EPA, is at an all-time high.

Why in the world, in the context of the fact that we have 17 different intelligence agencies who concluded that Russia interfered with the election and an ongoing investigation into whether the Trump campaign was involved in selling out our democracy, do some folks continue to try to undermine this investigation?

The ongoing criminal inquiry is a legitimate undertaking. It is not a witch hunt. In fact, everyone leading that investigation is a Republican: Bob Mueller, Republican; Rod Rosenstein, Republican; James Comey, Republican; Christopher Wray, Republican.

What exactly are you all complaining about? It is time for the cover-up caucus in this institution to stop hiding the truth from the American people.

NATIONAL POPPY DAY

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, on May 25, we celebrate National Poppy Day.

After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists said the growth was because the soil in France and Belgium became enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew beautiful red poppies.

The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shared during battle following the publication of a wartime poem, "In Flanders Fields," by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae while serving on the front lines.

The poppy honors those who served and died for our country in all wars and