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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 18, 2018, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, JUNE 15, 2018

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Bost).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Washington, DC,

I hereby appoint the Honorable MIKE BOST 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: God of grace and goodness, thank You for giving us another day.

Your divine wisdom and power are abundantly sufficient for our many needs. Endow the Members of this Assembly with a loyalty that never wavers and a courage that never falters as they seek to fulfill the high and holy mission which You have entrusted to them

As the House enters a long weekend of visits to their respective districts, may we all be mindful of and thankful for our fathers, or the men who were father figures for us, whose love and support enabled us to mature and become productive members of our American society.

May all that is done this day 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.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MARINO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MARINO 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 sisle

WORLD BLOOD DONOR DAY

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

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of World Blood Donor Day and to celebrate and thank the 7 million Americans who choose to donate blood each year.

Generosity saved the life of my dear friend and roommate, Congressman STEVE SCALISE, after a shooter attacked our fellow colleagues and teammates on the ball field during an early morning baseball practice a year ago.

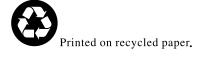
Blood can't be manufactured, so our entire national supply depends on the selfless generosity of our blood donors. Because donated blood is perishable, it has a limited shelf life and has to be continually replenished.

Volunteer blood donations ensure that patients in need always have access to the lifesaving gift of blood. In the summer, we see a big drop in donations exactly at the time when people are out and about and need it the most.

I encourage my colleagues to visit their local blood center and help promote awareness. Be there for someone else. Give blood and share life.

 \Box This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., \Box 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.



SHUT DOWN WENTWORTH REHA-BILITATION & HEALTH CARE CENTER IMMEDIATELY

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of anger and frustration at a deplorable situation in my hometown of Chicago, Illinois. I was shocked to read in yesterday's Chicago Tribune about the callous disregard demonstrated for our poor and vulnerable citizens by Alden Management Services, who operate Wentworth Rehabilitation & Health Care Center in my district, and I am here today to call on Alden to shut it down.

This so-called skilled nursing facility allowed a patient to remain on fire while an employee enjoyed a beverage. To add insult to injury, many residents have to endure bug bites, bruises, and other forms of neglect. This is the epitome of negligence and should not happen. This is America.

It is not a coincidence, Mr. Speaker, that most of these residents are poor seniors and African Americans. Where were CMS and the other regulatory and oversight authorities?

Mr. Speaker, this is reprehensible. Once again, I call for this hellhole to be shut down immediately.

WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS

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

Mr. ROTHFUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the unyielding dedication that my constituents have for our military. In particular, I would like to highlight the efforts of several folks back home who are responsible for a number of billboards dotting the highways of Beaver County that encourage people to wear red on Fridays to support our troops who are deployed overseas

For more than a decade, Americans across the Nation have worn red on Fridays to show support for troops fighting in foreign lands. In this effort, red is not just a color, but a message. RED is an acronym for Remember Everyone Deployed. It is a message to remember our servicemembers who are away from their families, risking their lives on the front lines to defend our freedoms and values. Remembering them is especially important since we often do not see news of those deployed.

Wearing red on Fridays is another way to show our troops that we are thinking of them, that we support them, and that we appreciate their sacrifices. I thank the volunteers of Beaver County for promoting and reminding us of this wear red effort.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, there is one person in the United States that can stop the mean-spirited separation of children at the border of my State. The vileness of separating babies as young as 6 months, babies who are breastfeeding, is at the feet, the hands, mind, and heart of President Trump.

This is not a Democratic policy. We have never utilized this kind of deterrence, and we have never stopped an asylum possibility because of domestic violence or gang violence, as this administration is doing.

Secondarily, the IG report, which I commend to the American people to read, has nothing to do with the Mueller investigation and Mr. Mueller, with his integrity intact, must continue that investigation and do it well and answer the questions of the Russian collusion in the election of 2016.

On another note, Happy Father's Day. In the memory of my late father, Ezra C. Jackson, we miss you. But all of the fathers who have fallen, and those who live, we wish you a wonderful day.

As well, Happy Juneteenth to those who celebrate Juneteenth, who recognize that it was 2 years after the Emancipation Proclamation that African Americans in the South and, particularly, Texas knew that they were free. Freedom is precious.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

GO BENSALEM HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, last night, we had our annual Congressional Baseball Game and some healthy competition with our colleagues. But today is the big showdown, when the Bensalem High School baseball team will play for the State championship versus Canon-McMillan at Penn State's Medlar Field at Lubrano Park.

Led by Coach Harry Daut, Bensalem beat La Salle in a come-from-behind victory in the semifinals, initially down three runs with only two at bats remaining. This come-from-behind victory was propelled by Nick Fossile's sacrifice fly to left field, sending home Dave Barnett from third base. That left it up to pitcher Nick Dean, who closed out the game and finished what starter Stephen Aldrich began.

I wish these players, the entire team, the entire coaching staff, and the entire Bensalem community the best of luck today, and I know they will make all of us proud. Go Bensalem.

OPPOSING PRESIDENT TRUMP'S ACA SABOTAGE

(Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, President Trump's cruel attempt to sabotage affordable healthcare access for more than 130 million Americans is inhumane and, mark my words, deadly.

If Trump has his way, anyone who has survived or lives with cancer, asthma, diabetes, mental health issues, or virtually any other medical conditions that you can think of, and many that you can't, will risk losing their health coverage. That is because the President is bent on dismantling the Affordable Care Act, which protects Americans with preexisting conditions.

Before the ACA, insurance companies refused coverage or charged people more with these commonplace maladies. They even charged women more just for being women.

I am a woman, and I also beat breast cancer. And it sickens me to think of the anxiety and pain this President is causing my sister survivors right now with this threat. It is absurd, it is discriminatory, and it is, frankly, monstrous.

Every time it appears that the reckless disregard for people's lives shown by this administration and their Republican enablers in Congress couldn't possibly get any worse, they find a new low.

Mr. Speaker, there are too many real problems facing Americans today. This President and his party need to stop creating deadly new ones.

STOP THE IMPORTATION AND TRAFFICKING OF SYNTHETIC ANALOGUES ACT OF 2017

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2851.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 934 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2851.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Bost) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 0912

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2851) to