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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 4, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

We thank You for the joy, excitement, and ceremony of yesterday when the 116th Congress was convened. It was a celebration of the ongoing American experiment of participatory democracy.

Today begins, if not in full force, the work of the Congress, when the difficulties facing our Nation, and some communities especially, come into focus.

We ask again an abundance of Your wisdom for the Members of the people's House.

May we be forever grateful for the blessings our Nation enjoys and appropriately generous with what we have to help those among us who are in need.

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 her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam 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. HASTINGS. Madam 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The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.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 Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. HASTINGS 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.

GUN VIOLENCE

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Madam Speaker, as I did my very first speech in 2013, and again in 2017, I rise today to sound a clarion call for the urgent action by this new Congress to address the senseless gun violence that continues to claim too many innocent lives across our country.

Sadly, since my first speech 6 years ago, Americans continue to be gunned down in schools, workplaces, houses of worship, community gatherings, and even while sitting comfortably in their own homes.

Time and again, Congress pauses for the standard moment of silence and yet, so far, has failed to take real action.

Newtown, Parkland, Las Vegas, Mother Emanuel AME, Tree of Life synagogue, the Capital Gazette—these names are but a few of the grotesquely long list of mass shootings and lives cut violently short. And for every mass shooting that captures the headlines, countless other victims are killed or maimed in shootings across our country each and every day.

But as we turn the page on this new Congress, I have hope, hope that this year we will finally take action to make our community safer: actions such as passing universal background checks, banning high capacity magazines, and making trafficking of weapons across State lines a Federal crime.

We have the power to save lives. Let us now find the courage to act and build a safer future for our children.

U.S.-POLAND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

(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. Madam Speaker, 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Poland and the United States.

□ 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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As praised by Ambassador Piotr Wilczek:

It has been a century of solidarity, understanding, but most of all friendship. Our bond is stronger than ever, and we look forward to the next 100 years to come.

In 1795, imperial Russia and Prussia occupied the Polish nation, ending its official existence for 123 years.

The Washington Times recounted:

In 1918, the Versailles Conference restored an independent Polish state. Freedom was lost once more in 1939 as Nazi Germany invaded from the west and Soviet Russia from the east. Subjugation continued until 1989, with the end of the Soviet-backed communist rule.

Free and democratic Poland today is a valued member of NATO and the European Union.

Poland has achieved 25 years of uninterrupted economic growth, now continued by President Andrzej Duda.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

HONORED TO SERVE IN THE 15TH DISTRICT IN THE 116TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on the second day of the 116th Congress, to represent Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District.

The 15th Congressional District encompasses 14 counties, 24 percent of the land mass of Pennsylvania, and includes all of Armstrong, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Indiana, Jefferson, McKean, Venango, and Warren counties. It includes parts of Butler, Cambria, and Centre counties, including my hometown of Howard.

Madam Speaker, I take great pride in my service to the people of the 15th Congressional District, and I work hard to earn their trust, help solve their problems, and be a diligent Representative.

When not in Washington, I spend my days on the road in the district, traveling to meetings and events. I work to connect with my constituents and truly be a voice for each community I represent.

Madam Speaker, I also appreciate the opportunity to speak here, as I did 219 days in the 115th Congress, to be a strong voice for the citizens of the 15th District.

The challenges before us remain great, but it is my hope that we will tackle these challenges head-on. It is the American way.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND LIFE OF THE HONORABLE PAUL ELIZONDO, JR.

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the incredible

life and contributions of the Honorable Paul Elizondo, Jr., of San Antonio.

Paul's dedication to service was a lifelong commitment, beginning with his time in the United States Marine Corps.

Following his military service, he attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio, graduating with a degree in music education in 1957. He then spent 16 years in the public school system, encouraging the musical talents of countless young people, before being elected to the Texas State Legislature in 1978.

Paul first assumed the role of Bexar County commissioner for precinct 2 in 1983 and has been a fixture and force in the Bexar County government ever since.

Paul Elizondo, Jr., passed away on December 27, 2018, leaving behind an extraordinary legacy and an amazing family. While we mourn the loss of this great man, his dedication to fiercely advocating for the West Side has made an incredible impact that will continue for generations to come.

I would like to extend my most sincere condolences to Commissioner Elizondo's family during this difficult time, and I am proud to recognize all that he did for the great State of Texas and our hometown of San Antonio.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TYLER TRENT

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

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Tyler Trent, a remarkable young Hoosier from Carmel, Indiana, who lost his battle to bone cancer at only 20 years.

Tyler Trent is a name known in households across the Nation for his love of Purdue football and his inspiring passion and energy as a fan.

Tyler always dreamed of becoming a Boilermaker and refused to allow cancer to get in his way. After beating cancer once and being diagnosed again in 2017, Tyler started school at Purdue on a presidential scholarship, as planned, in the fall of '17. He would drive home on weekends for treatment. Even still, Tyler would show up to cheer on his Boilermakers every chance he got.

The Purdue superfan was featured on ESPN and named the honorary team captain when they won the Old Oaken Bucket game this past year. He received the Sagamore of the Wabash and formed an organization which helps families affected by cancer, called Teens With a Cause.

In December, he won Disney's Wide World of Sports Spirit Award. When he received that award, he said: "There is always a light at the end of the tunnel."

It is with that optimistic and positive outlook on life that Tyler inspired

the Nation. He has united Americans far and wide to be Boilermakers, and I hope we can all continue to be grateful and live every day as he did—Tyler strong.

ADOPTING THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 116TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 5, proceedings will now resume on the resolution (H. Res. 6) adopting the Rules of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. When proceedings were postponed on Thursday, January 3, 2019, the portion of the divided question comprising title I had been disposed of.

Pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 5, the portion of the divided question comprising title II is now debatable for 1 hour.

The gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 6, Title II—Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress.

Title II establishes a bipartisan Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress to investigate, study, make findings, hold public hearings, and develop recommendations to modernize and improve the way Congress operates.

This institution has a responsibility to the people—to our constituents—and to this country to build a Congress that works for everyone, not just those at the top. This is not something that will happen on its own. It is going to take hard work, but it is worthwhile work.

This is not the first time Congress, as an institution, has wrestled with how to be more effective and efficient. Three times in the 20th century—in 1945, in 1965, and again in 1992 when Ms. LOFGREN and I came to Congress—we established joint committees to examine various aspects of the legislative process in an effort to improve efficiency and promote transparency.

Madam Speaker, today we are at a similar crossroads. Last Congress, we witnessed the Republicans lead the most closed Congress in the history of our country. Republicans blocked everything from immigration reform and infrastructure to gun safety and lowering prescription drug costs.

Last November, many of the American people demanded a new direction. Part of that new direction includes making the House of Representatives an institution that debates big ideas.