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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. CÁRDENAS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 27, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TONY CÁRDENAS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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.

HONORING MAJOR GENERAL CAROL TIMMONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my colleagues, Senator TOM CARPER and Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware, to honor and congratulate Major General Carol Timmons for a lifetime of dedicated service to our country.

After graduating from William Penn High School in 1977, Timmons enrolled

in college and enlisted in the Delaware National Guard. With a childhood dream of becoming an airline pilot, her career in flight would begin that very summer on a C-130 airplane in Savannah, Georgia.

Despite her love of airplanes, Air Force rules prevented women from flying combat mission planes like the C-130. Due to these unfair regulations, she joined the Army National Guard in 1980 and would learn to fly noncombat Army helicopters like the UH-1 Huey.

Undeterred and committed to her dream, Timmons joined the Air Force Reserves, where she flew noncombat support missions. She soon realized her dream as Federal laws ended the discriminatory prohibition on women flying in combat missions, and during Operation Desert Storm, then-Captain Timmons would become one of the first women to fly in combat.

Following that operation, her career would come full circle as she rejoined the Delaware National Guard, flying the same C-130s she learned to fly on and to operate in the beginning.

On January 8, 2012, then-Brigadier General Timmons would make history by becoming the Delaware Air National Guard's first female commander, and again on February 1, 2017, when she was promoted to the rank of major general and made Adjutant General of the Delaware National Guard, the Governor's chief military adviser, commanding 1,500 soldiers and 1,100 airmen.

During her storied 42-year career, she earned a Bronze Star for her service in Afghanistan and has flown over 5,200 hours in the cockpit, including 400 combat hours during contingencies spanning from Operations Desert Shield to Inherent Resolve. She served on the National Guard's Joint Diversity Executive Council and the Air Force Reserve Policy Committee. She has received numerous honors, including induction into the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame and the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

By refusing to compromise on her dream, Timmons broke down barriers, blazed trails, and inspired women to let nothing stand in their way in service to our Nation.

I join Senator CARPER and Senator COONS in thanking Major General Carol Timmons for her over four decades of service to our State and our country, and we wish her the very best.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS of Washington) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the President's national emergency declaration.

First and foremost, I support President Trump, and I support the wall. Walls work to protect our security, combat human trafficking, stop the flow of drugs, and encourage legal immigration.

Democrats have pushed for zero wall money, open borders, and abolishing ICE. These policies make our Nation vulnerable and threaten our security, and it is a tragedy.

So I don't blame the President for proposing extreme measures to respond to their extreme policies and tactics. However, yesterday, I made the difficult decision to disapprove of this type of unilateral executive action, just as I could not approve any such unilateral action by any President.

I am 100 percent with President Trump for building the wall, but the emergency declaration only maintains the status quo. Securing our border is fundamental to who we are as a sovereign nation, and that is why I voted over a dozen times for stronger border security, including \$25 billion for the wall last year.

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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Unfortunately, as the President recognized, himself, this national emergency could be tied up in the courts for years with no guarantee that judges will rule in favor of the wall to be built. It is Congress' job to provide the resources our Nation needs to keep us safe, and I am concerned that if this is tied up in the courts, we will be stuck with the status quo of no wall and a border that isn't secure.

My vote to disapprove of this unilateral executive action had nothing to do with the merits or need to build President Trump's wall; it was about our Constitution and this body's exclusive Article I powers to make laws and use the power of the purse.

I spoke out strongly when President Obama said that if Congress didn't act, he would use the pen and the phone, and then he proceeded to act alone on DACA and act alone in reappropriating money within ObamaCare and regulating every mud puddle in America.

Remember, President Obama initially said he couldn't act alone on DACA because he wasn't a king or an emperor. After a robust debate in Congress, he flip-flopped and took executive action. His executive action took away Congress' authority to act, and DACA still isn't solved.

These unilateral actions by President Obama put more power in the hands of unelected people sitting in cubicles in Washington, D.C., and they turned elected Representatives into elected bystanders. When Representatives become irrelevant, citizens become irrelevant, and we the people are powerless against faceless, unelected bureaucrats.

Unilateral executive actions set bad precedent. If it is okay for the executive branch to act alone after the legislative branch doesn't reach an agreement, where does that take us?

Governor Jay Inslee already has said that he would be willing to declare a national emergency on climate change allowing for drastic Federal action that would never have to be approved by Congress.

What if, without any congressional approval, a future President used a national emergency to take money from our VA clinics, Fairchild Air Force Base, or force management at the Colville National Forest to force a Green New Deal on the American people?

Whether it is at the border or upholding the separation of powers in our Constitution, we, conservative Republicans, must be consistent about being the party for the rule of law. It is those principles that define us.

Mr. Speaker, I say to Speaker PELOSI: I am 100 percent with Trump on the wall. I am also 100 percent with the Constitution. As Representatives of the people, it is our call to put aside any personal ambition or partisan divides so that the people are protected.

This isn't about political parties, personalities, or power. It never has been. It is about making sure that the prom-

ise of America is never breached and knowing that the only ones who can preserve it are we the people. I take this seriously and will always lead by upholding my Article I constitutional authority to be a strong voice for those I have the privilege of serving in the United States House of Representatives.

GUN VIOLENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in this Chamber today in support of H.R. 8.

Americans have been waiting for Congress to catch up to them. It isn't often that we hear that 70, 80, or 90 percent of Americans agree on something, but when it comes to universal background checks, 97 percent of Americans think it is a good idea.

In my own district, I have seen that unity. After Parkland, we had 13,000 people in Morristown, New Jersey, at the student-led March for Our Lives demanding gun safety legislation. After the horrific shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue, members of the community came together to denounce gun violence.

The 11th District of New Jersey understands that universal background checks are a responsible way to address the gun violence epidemic in this country. It is a way to keep our communities safe.

Here in New Jersey, we know that successful, responsible gun ownership looks a lot like the legislation we have on the books. We have good gun safety laws, but they are constantly undermined by States with weak gun safety laws.

As a Federal prosecutor, I worked on cases where we traced illegal guns to neighboring States with weak gun safety laws. That is why it is so important that we have stronger Federal gun safety laws. Gun violence is a national problem, and it deserves a national response.

Mr. Speaker, I grew up in a culture of gun safety. My father is a hunter, and he taught me how to shoot. I went on to serve in the United States Navy, and I was qualified as an expert shot in the M16, the Colt 45, and the 9-millimeter Beretta.

I am joined today by a fellow freshman veteran, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania, and we have been trained and know the power of these weapons and the damage that they can do. Universal background checks are an easy step that we can take to improve gun safety in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New Jersey for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 8, and I rise to tell the

story of one resident from my community, from Pennsylvania's Sixth Congressional District, Jamie Looper, and his parents, Liz and Joe, from West Chester, Pennsylvania.

Jamie had just graduated college and was looking for a permanent postcollege job. In the meantime, he was working in a pizza shop in West Philadelphia when his life was tragically cut short in January 2004 when a worker accidentally shot him. This was not done in malice but was the result of a coworker accidentally mishandling a gun. Jamie passed away when he was 22 years old. Today would have been his 38th birthday.

I rise for the 1,600 Pennsylvanians and nearly 40,000 Americans who have lost their lives to gun-related incidents in 2017 alone.

The Loopers, like mine, are a military family. We understand the values of responsible gun ownership but also that we must take commonsense steps to reduce gun violence in our communities. We have seen for far too long far too many gun-related tragedies over the past several years with Congress doing nothing. We must act now.

SACRAMENTO-SAN JOAQUIN DELTA NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

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

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House overwhelmingly passed the Natural Resources Management Act, including a provision sponsored by Senator FEINSTEIN and me that would establish California's first National Heritage Area, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area.

I want to thank my House colleagues from California, Representatives MATSUI, DESAULNIER, McNERNEY, THOMPSON, HARDER, LOFGREN, and BERA, for their support as cosponsors of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area Act, H.R. 357.

I also want to thank Chairman GRIJALVA of the Natural Resources Committee for bringing the bipartisan public lands bill to the floor of the House following Senate passage earlier this month.

I sponsored this legislation to establish the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta National Heritage Area since 2011 along with my colleague Senator FEINSTEIN.

A National Heritage Area designation will help conserve the California Delta, which I have had the great pleasure of calling my home for the last 40 years.

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This iconic working landscape is central to California's life and is the most productive watershed and delta in the Western United States and, indeed, from the coast of Alaska to Chile.

Specifically, this legislation authorizes \$10 million in Federal grants for