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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. SOTO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARREN SOTO 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.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF H. LEON COMER, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of H. Leon Comer, Sr., who passed away at the age of 91 on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. He was a man born of humble means who never lost sight of where he came from.

He was the son of the late John Stoll Comer, Sr., and Annie Lee Roach

Comer, where he was one of seven siblings. He was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he attended Oak Ridge Elementary School and later served in the United States Merchant Marines.

He was married to Francis Watkins Comer for 64 years and had two children, Brenda Comer Sutton and Leon "Chip" Comer, Jr.

Leon Comer believed in the value of hard work and, after working as a manager of a beer distributor in the greater Rock Hill market for 12 years, he founded Comer Distributing in 1971, with only five employees, distributing 250,000 cases of beer, with only three routes.

The original building, consisting of only 5,000 square feet, was located on Pendleton Street, and later expanded to 17,000 square feet to a much larger site on Carmel Road.

Comer Distributing expanded into the greater Columbia market in 2012 and, 1 year later, added another 11,200 square feet of space. The company opened in a two-story office building in 2018, along with an expanded warehouse. The company has grown to 70 employees, providing 1.5 million cases of a variety of brand-name beverages each year.

Leon retired in 1990; however, over the course of his lifetime, he served on many boards, clubs, and commissions, including the Rock Hill Economic Development Board; York County Natural Gas Authority; York Masonic Lodge #385; Hejaz Shriners; Winthrop Eagle Club, where he was a founding member; Ducks Unlimited; the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, serving twice as chairman of the board; the Waterfowl Association; the American Legion; Frank Roach Post #34; the USC Gamecock Club; and many more organizations and local groups.

Leon and his wife, Frances, were longtime members of St. John's United Methodist Church, where he was very active for many years. The lives that

have been positively affected by the giving and donations to Christian causes, such as the men's shelters and the Boys and Girls Clubs, will be remembered for years to come.

The company is now being run by his son, Chip Comer, and the legacy of his father can be summed up by the words of Chip when he said the following: "My father is the epitome of what I would always want to be, as he taught me so many life lessons growing up."

Leon Comer left an indelible imprint on the many lives that he touched, and he will be remembered as a man who epitomized the meaning of "true service above self" and was a man who dedicated his life to serving his faith, his family, and his country.

May God bless Leon Comer and his family.

FIX THEM BEFORE WE FLY THEM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise; and I rise today because I love my country and because I love the people, and I love their lives and I care about them. And because I love them and I care about them, I call upon the President of the United States of America to ground the 737 MAX 8.

This plane is unfit to fly. We have had two go down in the last 6 months. Two down within 6 months is two too many.

We cannot put profits above people, Mr. President. This is an opportunity for you to exert your executive power in a positive way on behalf of people who fly these planes.

It is not about the pilots; it is about the planes. These planes are unfit to fly, and we cannot put profits above people, and they are to be grounded until they are fit.

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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Ground them until they are fixed. They are unfit to fly. Fix them before we fly them.

SCOUTING ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDE VALUABLE EXPERIENCES

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, Scouting organizations are pivotal in the lives of so many American youth, and this week there has been much to celebrate. Yesterday, the Girl Scouts of the USA marked its 107th birthday, and tonight the Boy Scouts of America will conclude its annual report to the Nation.

Girl Scouts help girls develop into the future leaders of our economy, our communities, our country, and the world by encouraging them to dream big and work hard to achieve their goals. In fact, many Congresswomen have been Girl Scouts, and we saw some Congresswomen deliver speeches on this floor yesterday in honor of the Girl Scouts building girls of courage, confidence, and character for 107 years.

Mr. Speaker, I know firsthand the positive impact that Scouting can have on the life of a young person. I have been actively involved with the Boy Scouts of America since I was 11 years old.

On May 17, 1977, I became an Eagle Scout myself, as a member of Boy Scout Troop 52 in Walker Township, Pennsylvania. Over the years, I have proudly held various leadership roles with Boy Scout troops in Pennsylvania, including two separate stints as Scoutmaster for Troop 353 and president of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council. One of my greatest honors was to witness 29 young men achieve the rank of Eagle Scout during my tenure as Scoutmaster.

Many Eagle Scouts will gather tonight in the Capitol to conclude the annual Report to the Nation delegation trip. I am proud to be a part of the Eagles on the Hill reception, and I look forward to hearing from the Scouts.

Members of Congress and I will speak about how Scouting positively impacted our lives. And after the speeches, the Scouts will have a chance to discuss their experience in Scouting as a whole, as well as their time in the Report to the Nation delegation.

Report to the Nation is an annual event meant to connect some of Scouting's best and brightest with government officials and elected representatives. Each year, 6 to 10 representatives of the Boy Scouts meet with senior government officials, including the President and key congressional leaders, with the goal of providing an update of what Scouts have achieved over the past year. This also allows members of the Federal Government an opportunity to meet some of the Nation's brightest young Scouts. The delegation spends between a week

and 10 days in Washington, D.C., conducting meetings and touring the city.

The Report to the Nation delegation stems from the congressional charter of the Boy Scouts of America, dating back to June 15, 1916, and represents millions of Boy Scouts.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the Boy Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts of the USA both contribute to the spirit of this Nation and play an essential role in educating our youth. These organizations build character; they help young people become actively engaged in their communities; and they promote serving others in ways big and small. And that is something we can all respect and admire.

A COMMUNITY IN PERIL

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

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise with great urgency to sound an alarm because we have a community in peril.

The Liberian community in Minnesota and around the Nation is dealing with a crisis of our very own making. When the DED, Deferred Enforced Departure, program expires on March 31, thousands of our Liberian friends and neighbors will be at risk of losing their jobs and their homes and being deported back to a nation that they no longer know.

Thousands of Liberians settled in the United States in the 1990s and early 2000s when their country was devastated by civil wars. My friend Louise Stevens was one of them. She was a woman with a dream of a good life who worked hard to get an education and worked hard to get a good job; and because of a civil war she had nothing to do with, she had the courage and bravery to flee her home and start over in America.

She slept on a mattress in a friend's living room for over a year. She and her kids shared two rooms for another year. And when President Clinton introduced the DED program in 1999, she was finally able to work without fear of being deported.

She went to Boston Scientific and, with her education and work ethic, was able to get a good job and start a career that spanned 18 years. Now, she is over 60 years old, and she could lose everything once again.

“The world took everything from me,” she told us. “Now I have a home; I have a job; I have a hospital to go to; I have friends; and Minnesota is my home. America is my home. I can’t wrap my head around a piece of paper telling me we don’t care; you can’t live here anymore.”

Another of my Liberian constituents, Michael, told us that “I am almost 50. My friends in Liberia are either dead or living outside of the country. If I am sent back, I will have accomplished nothing. My whole life is here, and this is my home.”

Another, Abdi Mohamed, who is afraid of losing his brother: “I cannot begin to imagine the nightmare this will create in my community,” he said. “I am not ready to let my bond with my brother go. We love to go shopping at the Mall of America. Dave and Bustlers is so much fun together. I am not ready for this.”

Mr. Speaker, we can do something about this. We can stop the nightmare from becoming a reality. We can legislate a fix.

It is time to act. This is what we are here to do: to put people before politics and make a real difference in our communities.

Our Liberian neighbors are friends; they are workers; and they are taxpayers. They have played by the rules; they have worked exceptionally hard; and they have thrived in good jobs. If we lose them, we will be losing our workforce; we will be losing our community; and we will be losing our family.

We have 18 days to act, 18 days to do something to make sure that our Liberian community will never have to spend another sleepless night wondering if the world will take everything away from them once again.

THANKING OUR FARMER COOPERATIVES

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, in many parts of my district and all across Kansas, farmer cooperatives are the foundation of a modernized and productive agriculture industry. For decades, co-ops have been farmers' primary business partner, supplier, and grain buyer. Memberships have been passed down from one generation to another, and relationships have been lifelong.

Today, our farmer co-ops are as strong and as important as ever. In the far reaches of my district, the co-ops provide feed, fertilizer, and fuel to farmers.

As times and needs have changed, so too have our co-ops. From online platforms for account statements and purchasing to precision technology that reduces fertilizer inputs and improves soil productivity, innovation has been necessary and vital to the co-ops' success.

Kansas farmer co-ops are responsible for more than 4,600 jobs and \$1.1 billion in total economic impact, statewide. These member-owned organizations have been and will continue to be vital to the continued growth and success of the agriculture industry.

Farmers are facing steep headwinds, and organizations like the co-ops are important in helping producers navigate through uncertainty in the industry.

We often take the time to thank our farmers, but it is also important we thank the hardworking men and