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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 28, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DWIGHT EVANS 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING DR. DANIEL P. KING

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

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Daniel P. King for his service to the Rio Grande Valley in the State of Texas.

Dr. King is a proven leader in the 34th Congressional District of Texas. As a public school superintendent for the last 14 years, he has guided district-wide initiatives to improve student performance and graduation rates across south Texas. Under his leader-

ship as superintendent at Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District, the annual dropout rate has been reduced by more than 90 percent, and the overall high school completion rate now surpasses the State average. He also helped establish the College 3 program which aims to offer every single student the opportunity to earn at least 12 college hours before high school graduation.

This year PSJA named its newest early college campus the Dr. Daniel P. King College & University Center in recognition of his accomplishments.

Prior to his role at PSJA ISD, Dr. King was superintendent at Hidalgo Independent School District where he led the development of the first early college school district in the Nation. In 2006, Hidalgo ISD earned the H-E-B Excellence in Education Award. And in 2007 U.S. News & World Report named Hidalgo High the 11th best high school in the Nation and number one in Texas. He also earned the State Superintendent of the Year Award in 2006 by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Dr. King is an influential educator, and his numerous accomplishments have paved the way for continued student success in south Texas. Our community is thankful for his contributions, and I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with him.

As we honor Dr. Daniel P. King, I also want to acknowledge his wife, Sara, who is a PSJA faculty member, and their six children who have supported Dr. King in achieving his professional goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join his family, our community, and me in wishing him a happy retirement and thanking him for his service.

AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, last week the biggest news in Congress was overshadowed by an impeachment circus. The Republican Study Committee and our task force introduced a framework for personalized, affordable healthcare.

Mr. Speaker, our current healthcare system is broken. It is simply not working. Healthcare costs are out of control, and it is time we modernize it.

We promise to all of America that we will deliver personalized healthcare where you and your doctor will remain in control of your healthcare. This is phase one of a two-phase plan which will protect vulnerable Americans with preexisting conditions, chronic illnesses, and serious health issues while reducing premiums, deductibles, and overall healthcare costs.

Personally, I can't wait to continue working on these important issues to improve the lives of Kansans and deliver for America.

NATIONAL FFA CONVENTION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today dozens of Kansas FFA members, Future Farmers of America, are in Indianapolis, Indiana, for the start of the 2009 National FFA Convention. They will be joining students from Pennsylvania to California and more than a dozen high school students from my own district will be competing in various competitions, including Clay Center, Kansas, FFA member Garrett Craig who will be competing for a position as a national FFA officer.

Good luck to you, Garrett.

While it is known for agriculture education, Kansas FFA chapters are thriving in rural America as well as urban school districts and have introduced thousands of new students to agriculture and ag-related career opportunities.

I want to wish all Kansas FFA students participating in Indianapolis this week the best of luck and trust that Kansas will continue its long legacy of

□ 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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USMCA

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to applaud the efforts of my colleagues across the aisle on their efforts and the United States trade team for getting closer to approving the USMCA trade agreement. I remain very optimistic that we can get this passed in Congress and that we can get this done this fall.

It is time to deliver the USMCA agreement for Kansas. We have waited over a year, and it is now time to pass this agreement. This agreement will mean thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars of increased exports for Kansas.

Today I want to remind the Speaker of the importance of the USMCA deal and to please bring it to the floor where we can vote on it and deliver for America.

CHINA TRADE WAR

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud the administration's effort on the China trade war. I want to applaud President Trump and his trade team led by Ambassador Bob Lighthizer for all their hard work. It seems like just yesterday they signed an agreement with Japan. But they didn't rest on their laurels and have quickly moved on to the significance of a Chinese trade agreement.

There seems to be more good news coming out of the White House every day, and we continue to encourage the White House and the Chinese leadership to develop this agreement and allow more agriculture products into China. We look forward to future engagements with our Chinese counterparts in the near future as well and continue to hope that we can work toward a strong agreement yet this fall.

ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI MISSION

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stop and congratulate President Trump and the intelligence officers and the U.S. Special Forces who risked their lives in a daring raid this weekend where the leader of ISIS died by detonating a suicide vest killing himself and, very sadly, his three children after he was cornered in a tunnel.

Mr. Speaker, I have to stop and ask the question: What type of a person would sacrifice his own children?

ISIS is among the most depraved organizations in history. They have committed genocidal mass murder and enslaved, tortured, and beheaded innocent civilians.

Americans can all be encouraged by President Trump's Syria policy. He has destroyed ISIS, and he has kept American troops out of harm's way. President Trump continues to support the Kurds in eastern Syria where he sent a military convoy on Saturday.

President Trump is keeping his promises: leading American foreign policy abroad through strength and showing our enemies there is nowhere for them to hide.

RURAL ENERGY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to stop and say thanks to Mother Nature for all the blessings she has given Kansas, in particular the fact that we are an energy rich State. She has given us oil, natural gas, ethanol, wind, and solar production.

We want to stop and applaud the efforts of what the USDA and the Department of Energy formally did last week as they began working together to facilitate energy-related investments in America's rural communities to encourage investments in our new and improved rural energy production and infrastructure.

Additional focus on cybersecurity and grid improvements to secure our rural energy networks are also happening. This work builds upon President Trump's energy task force on agriculture and rural prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the President so much for making rural America stronger today.

ABU BAKR AL-BAGHDADI IS NO MORE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the tremendous news we all received over the weekend that the world's most wanted terrorist and leader of ISIS, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, was killed in a U.S.-led raid in northern Syria.

As the self-proclaimed leader of the Islamic State, al-Baghdadi was directly involved in countless atrocities and demonstrated complete disregard for human rights and human life. Genocide, sex slavery, organized rape, mass executions via crucifixion, stoning, burning in cages or flogging—al-Baghdadi's brutality knew no limits.

The world is unquestionably a better place without this purveyor of evil inhabiting it at this time.

I commend U.S. Joint Special Operations Command's 1st Special Forces Operational Detachment-Delta, also known as Delta Force, for the flawless execution of their mission—and without any U.S. casualties.

I also commend President Trump and his administration for authorizing this raid and bringing one of the most dangerous men in the world to justice. They are doing good work in the Syria situation. This will go down as a significant achievement in the war against terror.

In the immediate aftermath of the announcement becoming public, most rational people from both sides of the aisle celebrated this accomplishment—but not all.

Mr. Speaker, you may have seen the headlines from the Washington Post: "Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, an austere religious scholar at the helm of Islamic State dies at 48."

Even in this age of questionable reporting, this headline and others like it

are reprehensible. In fact, his last cowardly action on Earth was to detonate a suicide vest as he was being hunted down by some of our specialized military dogs as well as our personnel. Great work. In doing so, with his suicide vest, he also took the lives of three of his own children.

U.S. Special Operations Forces didn't kill just a noble religious scholar as was headlined. They actually killed a deranged, radicalized madman who was directly responsible for the brutal murders of countless people: Americans and his own country people from that part of the world as well.

While the headline has since been changed by the Washington Post, they should be ashamed of themselves. We don't mourn the loss of terrorists in the United States of America.

Now, this victory doesn't mean the war against terror is won by any means, but it should send a loud, clear, and unmistakable message to the rest of the world that the United States will root out evil wherever it is and wherever it hides. Our enemies are not safe, and they never will be.

We celebrate this evil's removal from the Earth embodied by al-Baghdadi. Anyone who is willing to commit these types of atrocities should understand one thing: We will not rest as a Nation and as a military until they are wiped out from the face of the Earth.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. KELLY of Illinois) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

Reverend Dr. Derek W.H. Thomas, First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, South Carolina, offered the following prayer:

Gracious Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your guiding hand upon our Nation for almost 2½ centuries.

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord."

Today, I humbly ask that You would bless our Congressional leaders. Grant them the wisdom of Solomon to address the complex issues of government, ensuring that the legitimate needs of our citizens are faithfully represented. At a moment of tension and division, I ask that Your will might be done, ensuring the preservation of liberty and justice for all.

I especially pray for those who protect our Nation and today may be in