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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 13, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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.

I RISE TO DEFEND DACA RECIPIENTS

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 still I rise because I love my country.

And today I rise to defend those who are recipients of the DACA program. I rise to defend these young people because, unfortunately, bigotry is being weaponized against them.

I rise because the Chief Executive Officer has indicated that there are hard-

ened criminals among them, but he does it in such a way as to demean and defame all of them. He does it on the day that the Supreme Court of the United States of America is considering a case with reference to DACA recipients.

I rise to defend them. These are young people who came to this country at a very early age. They did not come of their own volition. These are young people who have been screened and vetted. These are young people who have gone on to get good educations. These are young people who are contributing to our society.

So I rise to defend the DACA recipients. I rise because I understand what is going on. This Chief Executive Officer is not going to stop. This is just another phase of his attempts to weaponize bigotry, hatred, racism.

He did it with the Muslim ban, weaponizing religion. He did it with the s-hole countries, weaponizing race. He did it with some "fine people" among those in Charlottesville where a woman lost her life, weaponizing anti-Semitism.

And he has done it repeatedly and will not stop. He went on to do it with the ban on transgender persons in the military, weaponizing homophobia.

This is not going to stop. We must move to impeach this President.

I am proud to say that history, now, is going to record that, on this day, witnesses appeared to give testimony with reference to why the President should be impeached. That is how the testimony is going to be presented.

I am not proud that this is happening. I love my country. I don't want this to happen in my country.

I didn't come to Congress to be a part of an impeachment effort against the President, but when a President attempts to weaponize race, bigotry, xenophobia, Islamophobia, homophobia, that President ought to be impeached—and he will be.

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

IMPEACHMENT MUST NOT BECOME WEAPONIZED

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

Mr. MITCHELL. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives most certainly faces a vote to impeach the President before the end of this year. I urge my colleagues to carefully and deliberately contemplate this next step in their votes.

The Constitution provides great latitude to this body in impeaching a President. It is up to us, all 435 of us in this Chamber, to determine what constitutes a "high crime and misdemeanor," and those determinations clearly vary greatly among us.

As we cast those votes, we must consider our place in history and the implications of those votes in the future of this Republic.

Alexander Hamilton warned of the risks of impeachment becoming a partisan act. In Federalist No. 65, he wrote of his fear that, during impeachment, ". . . there will always be the greatest danger that the decision will be regulated more by comparative strength of parties, than by the real demonstrations of innocence or guilt." I fear the proceedings have not heeded this warning.

Impeachment was never designed to be a supplemental election process but, rather, a safety valve to be used in the rarest of occasions when an elected official acts in such an immoral and blatantly unlawful manner as to threaten the very basis of our Republic.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to remember this as they assess the interviews, depositions, and hearings that are unfolding today and their impending vote on impeachment.

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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Impeachment must not become weaponized. It cannot simply be another election tool.

The question before this body is not whether a Member is comfortable with the rhetoric of the President, his political tactics, his use of Twitter, his policy choices, or his political rallies. The question is: Have high crimes and misdemeanors been committed? And if so, they must be prepared to demonstrate that specifically.

I urge the Speaker of the House to ensure that each Member, should they desire, be afforded time, 5 minutes per Member, during debate on impeachment to explain his or her view and impending vote. It is critical the American people, who will be watching closely, be afforded an opportunity to see and hear those views.

Impeachment must not be based upon polling data, election advantages, or social media commentary. It must be based upon clear and compelling facts. To do anything else threatens our Republic.

I intend to approach this matter in just that way. I will uphold my oath and vote as the circumstances require.

But this judgment also must not be preordained based on political party or political maneuvering by anyone serving in this Chamber.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2019

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week, we celebrate the fifth year of National Apprenticeship Week, a week dedicated to showcasing the impact that apprenticeship programs have on preparing Americans for the jobs of today and tomorrow.

Our Nation has 7 million unfilled jobs. A 2018 survey of U.S. employers showed that nearly half of all job creators struggle to hire employees with the right skills for the job.

Apprenticeships offer one of the strongest solutions to closing the skills gap and strengthening the American workforce. That is why Republicans on the Committee on Education and Labor are committed to expanding apprenticeship opportunities nationwide.

According to the Department of Labor, 94 percent of apprentices retain employment after completing an apprenticeship program, and the average starting salary after completion is \$70,000.

Apprenticeships help integrate the education system with the workforce development system, which allows all students to be better prepared to compete successfully in the 21st century economy.

ALABAMA A&M 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University.

The school was originally established not long after the Civil War, in 1873, by the legislature of the State of Alabama. Through the tireless efforts of the first principal and president, William Hooper Council, the Huntsville Normal School opened on May 1, 1875, with an appropriation of \$1,000 per year. It had 61 students and two instructors.

In 1885, because of its success with industrial education, the Alabama Legislature changed its name to the State Normal and Industrial School in Huntsville.

In 1891, the name was again changed to the State Agricultural and Industrial Institute for Negroes, and a new location was provided at Normal, Alabama.

In 1969, the school became a fully accredited member of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and its name was changed to Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University, the name that it has today.

In the 50 years since its university designation and establishment of the foundation, Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical University has grown to encompass widely respected programs in engineering, computer science, business, food sciences, agricultural and animal sciences, and education, as well as Ph.D. programs in plant and soil science, food science, physics, and reading.

Today, Alabama A&M University is comprised of over 70 buildings and more than 1,000 acres, is home to more than 6,000 students, is a designated Gold Military Friendly institution, and serves as a regional State, national, and international resource, while maintaining its mission of educating the underserved and uplifting the people of Alabama, the Nation, and the world through its excellence in education.

On a more personal note, my mother, Betty Brooks, is a proud graduate of Alabama A&M University, having received her master's degree there. I thank Alabama A&M for helping her to successfully serve for a quarter of a century as a Lee High School government and economics teacher.

In sum, I am, and all of the State of Alabama is, proud of Alabama A&M University's accomplishments and wish Alabama A&M a happy 50th anniversary as a fully accredited university.

Go Bulldogs.

May their future success in helping prepare, train, and educate our youth be as great and productive as their past.

CONGRATULATING COLONEL ANTHONY POLASHEK ON 32 YEARS IN THE AIR FORCE

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Colonel Anthony Polashek on his retirement from the U.S. Air Force after 32 years of service.

Colonel Polashek graduated from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, an officer training school, before commissioning into the Air Force.

During his long career, Colonel Polashek's deployments included Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. By the end of his distinguished career, he logged more than 5,800 flight hours as a command pilot, more than 500 of which were in combat.

Since 2016, Colonel Polashek has served as commander of the 934th Air-lift Wing, located at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport Air Reserve Station, overseeing 12 squadrons with more than 1,400 airmen.

Minnesota has been fortunate to have such an accomplished member of our Nation's Armed Forces lead the charge and train our airmen and -women of tomorrow.

Again, we congratulate Colonel Polashek on his retirement, and we wish him the best as he moves to his next chapter.

RECOGNIZING NANCY LIBERSKY'S LIFETIME OF SERVICE TO THE SMALL BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Small Business Administration's Minnesota district director, Nancy Libersky, on her retirement.

District Director Libersky has served our great State of Minnesota for 28 years. She will be missed.

Nancy's time at the SBA in Minnesota began in 1994 as the regional manager for SBA's Twin City's international trade programs. In this capacity, Nancy helped hundreds of Minnesota businesses compete in the global marketplace.

At the same time, Nancy also served as an adjunct instructor at Saint Paul College and was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce to sit on the Minnesota District Export Council.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Nancy for almost three decades of service to Small Business Minnesota, and we wish her the best in her retirement.

THE WALL FAMILY, MINNESOTA FAMILY BUSINESS AWARD OF 2019 RECIPIENT

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Wall family of Highland Bank in St. Michael, Minnesota, for receiving the 2019 Minnesota Family Business Award.

The Walls have proudly owned and operated the bank for more than four decades, serving as a lifeline for their customers and their community.

As a small financial institution, the financial crisis took its toll on Highland and families in and around St. Michael. Nevertheless, the Wall family persevered and led their bank and their community during a very difficult economic time.

The resiliency and community-focused nature of banks like Highland are essential to helping Minnesotans