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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 18, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ 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.

BRING TRANSPARENCY TO DRUG PRICES

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, families across southeast Wisconsin are concerned about the rising costs of healthcare, especially prescription drug costs. No parent should have to worry that they cannot afford insulin or an EpiPen for their child.

We must work together to bring transparency to drug prices, hold drug companies accountable, and empower

patients. The Stopping the Pharmaceutical Industry from Keeping drugs Expensive Act, or the SPIKE Act, is a nonpartisan bill addressing drug pricing.

The SPIKE Act holds drug companies accountable for their pricing of life-saving drugs. If a drug manufacturer of insulin or EpiPens drastically increases its price, the company must publicly justify its decision to do so.

As a cosponsor of the SPIKE Act, I will continue fighting to ensure this bill becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to bring the SPIKE Act to a vote.

BRING USMCA TO A VOTE

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, November 30 marks 1 year since President Trump agreed with Mexico and Canada to create the United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement, or USMCA.

USMCA is an improved trade agreement with Wisconsin's largest trading partners, Canada and Mexico. Mexico passed USMCA. Canada is ready to ratify it. They are waiting on us.

Generations of Wisconsinites have dedicated their lives to farming. Our farmers need our help. Our farmers need USMCA now more than ever.

Small dairy farms in Wisconsin are closing. Wisconsin farmers are struggling to cope with low milk prices and limited access to markets. USMCA opens dairy markets and allows farmers to sell their milk to Canada.

I have addressed this Chamber multiple times on the need to get USMCA across the finish line. Enough is enough. Bring USMCA to a vote.

TAKE STEPS TO PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is voting on the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. This is a nonpartisan bill to help families when disaster strikes.

In Wisconsin, we have seen our fair share of storms, tornadoes, and flooding. When a storm hits, resources and

assistance must be readily available. That is why this bill is so important. We must have a plan in place before the storm to avoid waste, fraud, and abuse.

This bill does that. Right now, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, does not have a codified process in place to distribute assistance to communities in need. The bill requires HUD to have a clear process in place before disasters strike.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the Reforming Disaster Recovery Act. We cannot always know where a storm will strike or when it will hit, but we can take steps to be prepared and respond.

CALL FOR SENATE TO ACT AFTER FRESNO MASS SHOOTING

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, it saddens me once again to hear another mass shooting has occurred in our country, this time in my district.

Last night, in Fresno, California, another senseless mass shooting occurred, where four people lost their lives and six more were injured. This happened at a family gathering in a neighborhood not far from the airport near Fresno, where 35 or more people were gathered.

Children were present at this meaningless act while they were watching a football game. While none of the children were harmed, certainly their lives will be changed forever as a result of the trauma they experienced last night.

I have reached out to local law enforcement, and we are ready to assist in any way possible. I have spoken with the mayor and the chief of police.

Certainly, our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and their families, but as a community and as a country,

□ 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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thoughts and prayers are just not enough. The daily tragedy of gun violence continues to inflict terror and violence on individuals and neighborhoods across our country, and that is a fact.

The threat to public safety is not normal, nor should it be seen as acceptable. It is unacceptable.

My office has been working with community leaders to identify resources for those affected, such as counseling, mental health support, victims' compensation, and community outreach.

This is in a neighborhood where a great deal of Southeast Asian families live. These are immigrants past and immigrants present. They came after the Vietnam war, where they stood shoulder to shoulder with Americans fighting in that conflict. They have been assimilating and contributing to our community in Fresno and throughout the valley.

Americans and members of our community deserve real action to keep them safe. In February, the House passed meaningful bipartisan gun safety legislation that Senator MITCH MCCONNELL refuses to bring up in the Senate. This legislation, combined with State and local efforts, would help make a difference. It is not a silver bullet, clearly. Bad term. Let me take that back because there are way too many guns and too many bullets out there.

Republicans and Democrats have good and different ideas on how to deal with gun violence in America. Wouldn't it be refreshing if the President were to bring us together in a bipartisan effort to talk about violence in America and solutions on how we deal with violence in America because no community, no town, no hamlet, regardless of the size, is not impacted by the gun violence that takes place every day?

The fact remains that too many Americans in too many communities are forced to live in fear. I know. I live near this downtown community where, nightly, you can hear guns going off. Last night, one of the neighbors said they are fearful of even working on their car in front of their home or when people drive by.

Americans should not be forced to live in that kind of fear in their neighborhoods. It is not right. The Senate must allow a vote on a bipartisan, commonsense gun violence prevention program. The House acted on that legislation 260 days ago—260 days ago.

We must come together in our community in Fresno. I spoke with the mayor and talked about figuring out ways to bring our community together with local law enforcement agencies and community organizations to help us heal.

The question is, how many more American lives must be lost to senseless violence before action is taken? That is the question we must ask.

I will do everything I can to promote safety in our neighborhoods.

CELEBRATING MOVE OF USDA TO HEARTLAND

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend, I had the pleasure of joining Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue in Kansas City to celebrate the relocation of two of USDA's research agencies to the heartland.

This move will save the country's taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars in rent and upkeep over the next decade. It will place the agriculture resource center within a 3-hour drive of 19 land-grant colleges, creating synergies in efficiency and research, thus getting more research to our agriculture producers more quickly.

From Columbia, Missouri, to Kansas City, to Manhattan, Kansas, to Lincoln, Nebraska, over 300 animal and pet health-related companies dot the landscape. This area is already known worldwide as the animal health corridor and now accounts for over 50 percent of the total worldwide animal health, diagnostics, and pet food sales.

By relocating the Department of Agriculture's agriculture research agencies NIFA and ERS to the center of the animal health corridor, and with NBAF's construction in Manhattan, Kansas, near completion, the Kansas-Missouri partnership will truly be the world's leading corridor for agriculture research as well.

This relocation places USDA research where it belongs, in the heart of the world's agriculture industry and close to our land-grant colleges, which all fuel and modernize the agriculture industry.

I often brag that I represent the largest agriculture-producing congressional district in America, a brag that I am going to keep repeating until someone knocks me off that hill. But today, I want to emphasize how important agriculture is to metropolitan areas like Kansas City.

In the Kansas City metro area, agriculture, food, and food processing support over 100,000 jobs, or 7 percent of the entire workforce in the area. These industries provide a total economic contribution of over \$29 billion, roughly 22 percent of the local Kansas City metro economy.

As an example of the importance of agriculture to the area, I can point to the BNSF facility, where we export 10 million pounds of protein every week. Also, the DeLong Company elevator exports nearly 300,000 tons of soybeans and dried distillers grains yearly.

Guess what? All these commodities, all these products, are grown in my home district, the big First District of Kansas.

The Kansas City metro area is home to several international grain trading companies, including Bartlett Grain, ADM, Cargill, Grain Craft, Scoular Company, and many others. Seaboard Foods calls Kansas City its home as well.

A big thanks to Secretary Perdue for his leadership, for all he does for agriculture, for being a voice of hope to all agriculture producers, and for fighting to keep new markets open.

And a big thanks to President Trump for his leadership, for his faith in the heartland, and for making this bold move.

Kansas and Missouri will make this the agriculture research corridor for the world.

CELEBRATING KANSAS AS WORLD AIR CAPITAL

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, Kansas is known as the air capital of the world, manufacturing up to 70 percent of the world's embedded aircraft fleet, while creating nearly 50,000 jobs and approximately \$10 billion in economic output.

Growing up just outside of Wichita, I was well aware of the impact and importance the aviation industry had in my State.

Today, as a U.S. Congressman, I have had the pleasure of seeing the evolution of the aerospace industry in Kansas and the continued impact this sector has on our district and the State.

This week, our office is celebrating America's superiority in the aerospace sector and Kansas' role in that industry. From the manufacturing of 747s by Spirit AeroSystems, to aviation safety research at the National Institute for Aviation Research at Wichita State University, to drone technology development at the Kansas State Polytechnic in Salina, communities across Kansas have benefited from the past, present, and future needs of the aerospace industry.

Since the industry's inception, the United States has been a world leader in aviation research and innovation. But other countries are rapidly gaining speed. It is essential that we maintain our competitive advantage, not only for continued economic growth in Kansas but for our national security and the sustained evolution of space and science technologies.

I have seen the impact this sector has had on my State, and I am proud to support the many people, businesses, and organizations involved in making the aerospace industry so dynamic and innovative.

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THANKSGIVING WEEK

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, Thanksgiving is only a week away, and it is good to have a reminder for myself and everyone to take a moment to recognize the many blessings we enjoy as Americans.

Our Founding Fathers bestowed upon us a Constitution and a Bill of Rights unlike anything any other country has created. Americans enjoy not only freedom to worship our God, but to enjoy the protections of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This country has allowed a Kansas farm kid like me to live the American Dream, to not only go to college and to