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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,
December 4, 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.

LONG-OVERDUE FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR THE LUMBEE TRIBE

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, at 2 p.m. today, the Committee on Natural Resources Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States will hear the Lumbee Recognition Act, which would afford the Lumbee Tribe long-overdue Federal benefits. Although the Federal Government provided partial recognition to

the Tribe in 1956, the Lumbee remain excluded from Federal benefits and legal status.

This bill is no symbolic gesture. No other recognized Tribe is denied the right to self-government and sovereignty. Full recognition will finally allow the 55,000 Lumbee I represent to have fair access to the benefits and programs available to all other recognized Tribes.

As a State senator, I sponsored legislation to clarify the status of the Lumbee as a State-recognized Tribe to ensure access to appropriate grants and programs. Now, I am proud, as a United States Congressman, to continue to fight for the Lumbee Tribe on the Federal level. In fact, cosponsoring this crucial legislation was one of my first official acts in Congress.

I applaud my colleagues, Representatives BUTTERFIELD and HUDSON, for introducing this important legislation to right this fundamentally unfair wrong. I look forward to casting my vote on the House floor to give the Lumbee the recognition they so rightfully deserve.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MAYOR C. BRUCE ROSE

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my friend of more than 40 years, Mayor C. Bruce Rose.

Tomorrow, the city of Wilson, North Carolina, will pause to observe Bruce Rose Day and will rename the Headquarters Fire Station to the C. Bruce Rose Headquarters Station, recognizing 60 long years of continuous service to our city.

Mr. Speaker, Mayor Rose graduated from Charles L. Coon High School and received an associate degree in applied science in fire science technology from Wilson Technical Community College.

He also proudly served our country in the United States Army for 2 years.

Mayor Rose served for 30 years with the Wilson Fire Department, 7 of which he served as fire chief. He attended fire schools throughout North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, and Maryland, including the National Fire Academy in Emmitsburg, Maryland. He is a graduate of the Executive Development Course of Chief Fire Officers in Emmitsburg.

Mayor Rose is a life member of the North Carolina Association of Fire Chiefs and served on its board of directors for 4 years. He is also a life member of the North Carolina Association of Retired Fire Chiefs and served, by appointment of Governor James B. Hunt, on the North Carolina Fire Commission. Mayor Rose received the 1999 Governor's Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Mayor Rose continued to serve as a goodwill ambassador for the city of Wilson as he was elected mayor, beginning in 1992. He has been proud to celebrate the progress of the city through events such as ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking and presentations of proclamations. He speaks at community events, works to bring industries into the city, and has worked diligently to see the city community thrive.

He is especially proud of the Whirlygig project, which is bringing economic development to our city.

Under his leadership, an \$18 million surface transportation project is now in progress in the eastern section of our city, which is the African American community. The city invested \$2 million into this project; the North Carolina Department of Transportation invested \$6 million; and, with my assistance, the city received a TIGER grant, under Secretary Anthony Fox, of \$10 million for the project.

During his tenure, Mayor Rose has been involved in several projects and

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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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initiatives, such as creation of the Buckhorn Reservoir and Greenlight Community Broadband, which is a municipal broadband, and it is successful.

He has been Wilson's longest serving mayor, after serving 27, nearly 28, consecutive years and eight consecutive terms.

Mayor Rose is a lifetime member of Wilson First Pentecostal Holiness Church, where he served as deacon and Sunday school superintendent.

He is married to Rebecca Davis Rose. They continue to be active in our community and involved in church functions throughout the city. Mayor Rose, Mr. Speaker, is father to four children and one delightful grandchild.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating and honoring my friend, Mayor C. Bruce Rose, as he is recognized for 60—I will repeat that again, 60—consecutive years of unselfish service to the city of Wilson, North Carolina. The contributions of Mayor Rose to the city cannot be overstated.

SECOND AMENDMENT WEEK

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week is Second Amendment Week in our office to celebrate our God-given right to keep and bear arms.

Each year at the start of the hunting season, I can't wait to get out in the field and enjoy one of my very favorite pastimes. Hunting is an American tradition shared across generations; and this Thanksgiving weekend I was able to sneak away with my oldest son to go duck hunting near our home in Great Bend.

Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you, I have never seen so many ducks. The folks at D.U., all the conservation groups are doing an incredible job.

Many Kansans use firearms for hunting, but also, in many of our most rural parts of the State, carrying a firearm can be the difference between life and death. In over 70 counties in Kansas, the closest law enforcement officer is often 30 minutes to an hour away; and, thus, you may need a firearm to protect yourself, your loved ones, and your property.

In both rural and urban areas, many Kansans responsibly open or conceal carry on a daily basis for self-defense. Many more Kansans keep a gun for home defense as well, maybe locked away in a master bedroom or in a safe down in the basement.

Whether it be a handgun, rifle, or shotgun, whatever a citizen's firearm of choice, the right to defend ourselves must not be infringed upon. As I represent Kansas in Congress, I remain staunchly opposed to any laws restricting what kind of firearms a law-abiding citizen can buy or keep in their possession.

Any politician trying to implement mandatory buyback programs, which I

really call gun confiscations, or unconstitutional red flag laws in Congress will be met with a groundswell of opposition because these types of laws violate our Second Amendment rights.

In Congress, we need to keep fighting for programs that address the underlying cause of gun violence, which is mental illness, to reach out to those who are struggling so they can get the proper care and attention early so they don't fall through the cracks and harm themselves or others.

We also need to make sure our existing background check system is working properly to continue to prevent tragedies, while not infringing on the rights of mentally stable, law-abiding citizens.

The solutions to preventing gun violence can be found at dinner tables, in our churches, and in our communities. Individually, we must practice and promote responsible gun ownership while collectively ensuring every law-abiding citizen's Second Amendment right is upheld with due process.

Gun ownership and hunting have been a tradition for my family and for this great land for many generations, each one passing on their knowledge and skills to the next. That is our way of life in Kansas. We must continue to uphold it and our constitutional right to keep and bear arms for the purpose of self-defense and individual freedom.

PASS USMCA NOW

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, today marks more than 1 year since President Trump signed the USMCA trade agreement, and it is still collecting dust on Speaker PELOSI's desk. That is an entire year that NANCY PELOSI and House Democrats have made Kansas businesses, farmers, ranchers, and workers wait.

There is no excuse for holding up this trade agreement, which is expected to create 176,000 jobs across America and deliver a \$70 billion boost to our United States economy. In Kansas, it would mean thousands of jobs and hundreds of millions of dollars. This agreement will make us stronger in our next trade negotiations with China as well.

With all due respect, Speaker PELOSI, there are no more excuses. It is time. Let's deliver a win for our economy and pass USMCA now.

IMPEACHMENT IS ALL ABOUT POLITICS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, this week, House Republicans produced our report showing specific facts that dismantle the Democrats' claims on impeachment. This evidence shows:

Number one, President Trump has a deep-seated, genuine, and reasonable skepticism of Ukraine due to its history of pervasive corruption;

Number two, the evidence does not establish that President Trump pressured Ukraine to investigate Burisma Holdings, Vice President Joe Biden, Hunter Biden, or Ukrainian influence in the 2016 election for the purpose of benefiting him in the 2020 election; and

Number three, the evidence does not support that President Trump covered

up the substance of his telephone conversation with President Zelensky by restricting access to the call summary.

Speaker PELOSI previously said that the conditions for impeachment must be "overwhelming" and "bipartisan." Currently, there is only bipartisan support in opposition to impeachment.

I guess the facts really don't matter, and Democrats moving forward show that this is all about politics.

LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

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, with my mnemonic notes in hand.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I love my country, but I also rise today with heartfelt regrets.

Mr. Speaker, it hurts my heart to see the Judiciary Committee hearing experts on the topic of impeachment, one of the seminal issues of this Congress, hearing experts, Mr. Speaker, and not one person of color among the experts.

What subliminal message are we sending to the world when we have experts, but not one person of color? Are we saying that there are no people of color who are experts on this topic of impeachment? What is the message that we are sending?

Mr. Speaker, if I am wrong, I will apologize; but if the committee is wrong, if the Congress is wrong, what will it do?

Mr. Speaker, people of color, for too long, have been ignored by one party and taken for granted by the other. Too often this happens. Not always, but too often it happens.

Mr. Speaker, I refuse to be ignored and taken for granted. I came here to represent the people who are ignored and taken for granted. Not one person of color among the constitutional scholars.

It seems that there is a desire among some to have the output of people of color without input from the people of color.

It seems to me that we have reached a point wherein we have got to have this debate about what these committees are going to do when we have our various persons appear before us as witnesses. We ought to have balance as it relates to all aspects of society, and that would include people of color.

So, Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great regret. I rise today to say that this is not about Democrats; it is not about Republicans. It is about fairness.

It is about whether or not we have matured to the point in this country where we are going to treat all people equally.

It is about whether we have metamorphosed to a point where we will not allow committees to have persons appear without considering the diversity and the richness of that diversity within this country.

I support people of color. I do so not because I am a person of color. I do so