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## Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2020, at 3 p.m.

## House of Representatives

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2020

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MCBATH).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 28, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable LUCY MCBATH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of healing and mercy, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pray that You bless this country we love with all our hearts. We thank You for those who founded this Republic upon faith, respect for law, and constitutional rights of individuals and the common good of the Nation.

Fan the flames of freedom in hearts of all Americans, and especially those who serve in the Armed Forces. Strengthen the resolve of all Members of this people's House, that they be attentive to Your commands, follow their consciences, and always do what is right as they wrestle with the complex issues of the day.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BEATTY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

### OBSERVING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Mrs. BEATTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to observe Black History Month, remembering a few legends whom we lost this past year—for them, we unite and celebrate our shared history—to build a more perfect Union for all Americans. Standing on the shoulders of:

Ohio's Toni Morrison, poet laureate, who voiced the struggle for justice and equality for all Americans;

Congressman Elijah Cummings, sharecroppers' son, friend, mentor, civil rights giant, and first African American male to have a committee room named after him;

Katherine Johnson, the famed NASA "Hidden Figure," who was behind Ohio's John Glenn's orbit of the Earth and putting a man on the Moon.

Standing on their shoulders, I empower the next generation of leaders, like this third grader, Paris, who dressed up as me for her Black History project.

Madam Speaker, we thank Paris. We fight every day for her future. Paris is brave and talented. She is our future.

□ 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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She embodies why Black History is American history.

Thank you, giants; thank you, America; and God bless America for Black History Month—American history.

#### RECOGNIZING THE WINNERS OF THE HELEN RUFFIN READING BOWL COMPETITION

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor schools from Georgia's First Congressional District—Lyman Hall Elementary, Midway Middle School, and Savannah Arts Academy—for winning the regional Helen Ruffin Reading Bowl competition in Valdosta.

With their hard-fought victory, they now move on to compete in divisional competition in Statesboro on March 7. The competition started more than 30 years ago when Helen Ruffin, a librarian from Georgia, wanted to find a way to make reading more exciting for students at her school.

The Reading Bowl gained traction, and now it is a statewide tournament. In the competition, participants from each school answer questions prepared by the committee for points. Teams of students that answer the most questions correctly about certain award-winning children's books win the competition.

These three schools from the First Congressional District of Georgia beat over 40 teams to make it to the next level. I am proud we have this degree of passion for reading in Georgia, and I am thankful these schools are working hard to teach their students the value of reading.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate them on their accomplishments this year, and best of luck to them in Statesboro at divisional competition.

#### ACKNOWLEDGING LOCAL NAACP LEADERS

(Ms. DEAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, as Black History Month comes to an end, I would like to acknowledge some of my local NAACP leaders:

Ms. Val Ward of Willow Grove; Mr. Craig Brown of Cheltenham; Shaykh Anwar Muhammad of Ambler; Mr. John Milligan of Norristown; Ms. Diana Robertson of the Main Line; Mr. Johnny Corson of Pottstown, whose ancestral farm in Plymouth Meeting was a key stop on the Underground Railway.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank these and other local leaders for their tireless efforts toward racial equality.

Today, I am pleased to stand here to tell you about a roundtable that we held on Monday with Black business

owners. As one constituent expressed to me, they need allies; and so I stand here today as an ally for the Montgomery County and Berks County communities in pursuit of a world free from divides of race, ethnicity, gender, and nationality.

Yes, Black History Month is ending tomorrow. May we never stop celebrating Black History Month. It is our American history, and it is the pathway to equality for all.

#### CONGRATULATING TERESA HALEY

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Teresa Haley, who was honored as the Activist of the Year at the NAACP Image Awards last week.

Teresa is the president of her local NAACP branch in Springfield, Illinois, as well as the first female president of the NAACP Illinois State Conference. She has worked tirelessly to advocate for the Black community in Springfield and issues critical to NAACP members nationwide.

I have had the pleasure of working closely with Teresa in an effort to bring national recognition to the 1908 race riot site in Springfield by declaring the site a national monument. Ultimately, the riots that occurred at that site played an integral role in the formation of the NAACP in 1909, just a year after the race riots in Springfield.

I am proud to recognize Teresa's fearless leadership, and I look forward to continuing to work with her to bring this national recognition to Springfield, Illinois.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate Teresa on this prestigious honor. I am very proud of her.

#### STRENGTHENING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Ms. BONAMICI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, Benjamin Franklin said: "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest." I agree.

I am proud to lead the Public Schools Week resolution with my colleagues, Representatives POCAN, GRAVES, and THOMPSON. This resolution recognizes the importance of and contributions of our public schools to the country and to our Nation's young people.

I came to Congress to strengthen public education and to make sure that all students, regardless of their race, color, national origin, ZIP Code, or family wealth, have an equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality, well-rounded public education.

At the State of the Union, I was disappointed to hear the President dismiss public schools as failing government schools. Public schools are not disconnected from the communities

around them. They are our schools, our children, our students in our communities; and it is our collective responsibility to do all we can to strengthen, not weaken, our system of public education.

I will continue to fight for public schools every day, and I am proud to honor them this week.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF ARLEIGH BIRK

(Mr. STAUBER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, this week we said good-bye to a brave member of the Greatest Generation. Arleigh Birk, Minnesota's last known survivor of the horrific attack on Pearl Harbor, passed away just 2 days before his 100th birthday.

Arleigh Birk was born and raised on a farm in North Dakota and joined the Navy when he was 19 years old. He was a 21-year-old Navy gun director stationed aboard the USS *Honolulu* when Pearl Harbor was attacked on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

As enemy forces dropped bombs, Arleigh courageously returned fire. His ship suffered damage during the attack, and Arleigh was transferred to the USS *Denver*, where he fought numerous battles throughout the Pacific theater.

After that war, he was honorably discharged and married the love of his life, Marion. Together, they had five children.

On Minnesota's Iron Range, Arleigh became a local legend, known for his kindness and record of service.

Over the years, he kept in touch with many of his fellow veterans through the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association and often attended local events to honor the Americans lost on that infamous day.

Madam Speaker, Arleigh lived an inspiring life, and I am proud to honor him here today. While he may be gone, Arleigh's legacy of service, sacrifice, and courage will live on in our hearts and our minds forever.

#### RECOGNIZING THE SHIPES FAMILY OF BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA

(Mr. COX of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COX of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Black History Month to recognize the Shipes family of Bakersfield, California, who have served as a pillar of the African American community for over 70 years.

In southeast Bakersfield, the Shipes' family business, Mr. Discount Plus store, has stood the test of time. First opened in the 1940s, the store is one of the last original Black-owned businesses in the Cottonwood neighborhood of Bakersfield, and it remains a beacon of Black entrepreneurship.