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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 28, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDRÉ CARSON 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 the universe, thank You for giving us another day.

Throughout the country, people mourn those whom they have lost; people lament the loss of businesses, of normalcy.

100,000 have now died of COVID-19. They were Democrats and Republicans. They lived in urban areas, and now, more and more, in rural areas. They were the descendants of men and women who were colonists, or Founding Fathers, and immigrants who had recently become citizens. They were disproportionately people of color, but not only of color, and of every religion and culture in this Nation.

When, O Lord, will we come to understand that we are all in this together, that if we do not stand together, we risk falling together? Heal the divisions within our body politic, within this Chamber, so that Your healing power, through our actions and goodwill, can be manifest in our United States.

May everything done this day, and in the days and weeks to come, be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 4(a) of House Resolution 967, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMALFA 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.

BLACK LIVES MATTER

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

Mr. KENNEDY. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Tell me, where was the right to life for Breonna Taylor, who was killed in her own bed by police and her boyfriend arrested for trying to protect her?

Where is the liberty for Ahmaud Arbery, killed for going for a jog, or Eric Garner, killed while begging for

his breath, or George Floyd, killed while under the knee of an officer uttering those same words, "I can't breathe"?

Where is the pursuit of happiness for Christian Cooper, who couldn't go bird watching without having the cops called on him?

Where is the equality in a nation where we proclaim that Black lives matter, yet we see our own neighbors' humanity stolen and still fail to provide justice?

250 years after our Nation wrote those words, those rights are not unalienable. If you are Black in America today, they do not exist.

All of us, any of us—with power and privilege—are accountable. We owe them better.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE NEEDS TO GET IT TOGETHER

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, last I knew, 20 million American had not received their stimulus checks.

In the 3 months since the CARES Act, I have been patient; South Dakotans have been patient as they wait for help some of them truly need.

Mr. Speaker, my patience has run low, especially since Americans are also waiting months for their tax returns.

Ben, from Marshall County, filed his in February. He is \$400 short on rent. He has been counting on his tax return. It is his money. But the IRS has not returned his phone calls, and they have not returned the phone calls or emails of congressional offices.

Workers in hospitals and in factories and in packing plants and in banks are working overtime to meet the needs of this Nation. I do not see that same

□ 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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dedication from the leadership of the IRS, and it is past time, Mr. Speaker, for them to get it together.

TIME TO GIVE AMERICA HOPE

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

Mrs. MCBATH. Mr. Speaker, this is not the time to back down.

In my home State of Georgia, hard-working Georgians have been laid off, small businesses have had to close, and families are worried about the health and well-being of their loved ones.

Americans everywhere are counting on us to help them get through this crisis as safely as possible. This is what we are sent to Washington to do: to protect and to uplift our communities in a time such as this.

We must work together, Republicans and Democrats, to make a difference in the lives of those we represent when they need us most.

This is the time to give America hope.

This is the time to govern with our hearts, and not partisan politics, because we can get through this pandemic together, stronger and more unified than before.

REMEMBERING SAM JOHNSON

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in sadness today, acknowledging the news I received late last night of the loss of our former colleague from Texas, Mr. Sam Johnson, a great American.

I had the pleasure of knowing him personally. His story is amazing of his life serving our country. Of course, he is known as being a Vietnam POW, held 7 years in what is known as the Hanoi Hilton.

He wrote a book about his exploits, including that part, called "Captive Warriors: A Vietnam POW's Story." I would highly recommend everybody get that and then pass it along.

My sweetest memory of him is Leader MCCARTHY invited a group of about 10 of us Members to go have dinner with him one night and just sit and listen to this man talk about his life, not only the negative of being a POW, but what we always saw here in his positive, upbeat spirit all the time.

This guy was a true cool guy. He was a Thunderbird aerobatic team member and also later directed the Air Force Fighter Weapons School, which is known as the Top Gun version of the Air Force.

This was an all-around great American. We will miss him badly.

THE NEED FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, we have lost over 100,000 lives to this pandemic—that we know of—and people on the front lines are still waiting for the PPE they need to protect themselves and our communities.

Every single day, healthcare providers, States, and first responders tell us that they are being forced to compete for high-priced supplies, if they can find any at all. They are told to keep a 90-day supply for the fall surge, when it is a miracle if they have enough supplies for 2 weeks.

Our frontline workers are feeling abandoned by their government. How can we blame them?

The President is claiming victory in a crisis we are still fighting, visiting State after State and saying it is safe to reopen completely when it is not. He has the authority to use the Defense Production Act to increase production of PPE to save lives and chooses not to, while the safety of our frontline workers hangs in the balance.

We have sent countless letters, introduced bills, and passed legislation. We need the President to act. The American people need straight talk, not magical thinking. We need leaders who listen to civil servants when they raise alarms, not fire the messenger.

We can defeat this pandemic if we hear the facts and act on them.

AMERICA'S LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IN CRISIS

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

Mr. HAGEDORN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because America's livestock industry is in crisis. In southern Minnesota and across the country, this has particularly hit our hog farmers. They are in big trouble. Packing plant disruptions have led to excess hogs and the actual destruction of animals and not even using the meat for the food supply.

The situation is so bad that, this week, I introduced legislation to mitigate losses in this area. I introduced the Livestock Producer Assistance for COVID-19 Damages Act. This bill will expand the USDA's Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Catfish Program to cover income losses for farmers and producers who have been unable to market livestock due to packing plant closures.

In Minnesota, our hog operators make a significant contribution to our State's economy. According to a study from the University of Minnesota, current disruptions in the pork supply chain, coupled with the current 15 percent unemployment rate, could result in an estimated loss of \$660 million of economic activity in our State. The researchers also concluded that a 15 percent drop in hog production would lead to an estimated loss of 2,100 Minnesota jobs.

While these statistics are rightfully alarming, this problem is not unique to Minnesota. States like South Dakota, Missouri, North Carolina, Virginia, and Iowa have similar issues. Pork and livestock producers are suffering huge losses, financial and otherwise, and all through no fault of their own.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this bill. We must stand with our family farmers and defend the interests of rural communities, the American economy, and our food supply.

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO HEALTHCARE ISSUES

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, with so much uncertainty in our future, families shouldn't have the additional burden of worrying about the state of their healthcare. Unfortunately, though, COVID-19 has only further exposed the cracks in our healthcare system and forced us all to face the urgency with which we must work to address them.

As we continue to respond to the public health crisis, I have been working with my colleagues here in the House to find innovative and timely solutions for the problems that COVID-19 continues to exacerbate.

Over the past several months, I have fought for the price of insulin and other drugs to be lowered immediately because families that are struggling need access to lifesaving medication. I fought alongside my colleagues for more supplies for our healthcare workers, for hospitals, and for community healthcare centers.

We can't let up now. We must continue to take steps that address the health disparities that place a significant and dangerous burden on American families.

I would like to join my colleagues and constituents in remembering the lives tragically lost during this pandemic and recommit to working together to help families across our country stay safe.

HONORING JACK "JD" BARNES SHAW

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Jack "JD" Barnes Shaw of Russell, Pennsylvania, for accepting a fully qualified appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Jack is the son of James and Ruth Shaw and a senior at Agora Cyber Charter School. During his time in school, Jack was very involved with the Boy Scouts, Civil Air Patrol, and fencing.