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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 10, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RICK LARSEN 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR TOM MCINNIS, CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina State Senator Tom McInnis of Rockingham has been named "Citizen of the Year" by the Richmond Community College Foundation, and I rise to comment on this well-deserved honor for my friend. Tom is an alumnus of RCC, and I know this distinction is meaningful to him.

I was privileged to serve with Tom in the North Carolina Senate and have worked closely with him to learn and

serve the needs of Richmond County in the time leading to and since my election in the House. That experience deepened my appreciation for Tom's love for Rockingham and Hamlet and the rest of Richmond County and his personal force in advocating for the needs and advancement of his people—and I mean everybody.

The citizenship award specifically recognizes Tom's effort and success in promoting workforce training for rural North Carolina. And Tom has devoted much of his adult life to improving educational opportunity, especially.

Tom grew up on a Richmond County farm. He put himself through school and started multiple businesses. In 1983, he founded Iron Horse Auction Company, which, in 2013, was named one of the top 10 auction companies in the United States. He was elected to the North Carolina Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame in 1994.

Tom's public life began with 8 years' service on the Richmond County Board of Education. Tom is now in his third term in the Senate, where he serves as chairman of the Transportation Committee.

Tom played a key role in securing funding for workforce training at Richmond Community College, including programs for truck driver training and electrical linemen. Since just the fall of 2016, the trucking program has graduated 50 new drivers into the workforce with highly marketable skills. The lineman program started last fall and already has a waitlist.

Tom will never forget his rural roots, and his people will never forget his hard work and service on their behalf. I am proud to call him a colleague, mentor, and friend.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

As we meditate on all the blessing of life, we especially pray for the blessing of peace in our lives and in our world.

May Your special blessings be upon the Members of this assembly as they return from a weekend in their home districts. Give them wisdom and charity, that they might work together for the common good.

May all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. ROSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSE of New York 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.

□ 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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CIVILITY IN CONGRESS

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, it is a fresh week in Washington. Last week, division infected this Capitol, both sides, Republicans and Democrats.

The State of the Union is supposed to be a time of coming together as Americans, coming together to improve jobs, healthcare, the environment, and the lives of hardworking men and women, seniors, and their families.

On Friday, I couldn't wait to get home. I went home and spent time with people in my district.

People donned costumes in the Michigan Law Enforcement Polar Plunge for Special Olympics. I didn't jump, but I laughed.

The University of Michigan won a hard-fought game against Michigan State. Yes, go Blue. And now, we come together as one Michigan.

We had serious, important conversations about the division in this country and how we must come together.

As we work on the people's business this week, I hope we remember we can disagree agreeably and respect others' opinions and the need to listen to each other and understand different perspectives. We are all Americans.

CONGRATULATING THOMAS MAY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Thomas May on receiving the University of Arkansas System President's Medal for Service.

This award is given by the school's president and cabinet to recognize those who have committed to helping the UA System through their time, knowledge, and philanthropy.

Tommy May has long been a resident of the Fourth Congressional District and was previously the president and CEO of Simmons Bank. Mr. May is also the only person in Arkansas history to have served as both chairman of the board and acting president of the University of Arkansas System.

His contributions to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff have led to growth, development, and successes at both institutions.

Mr. May is a dedicated leader, and his service shows how much wise stewardship can accomplish in the lives of others. Tommy has been an inspiration to many as he continues to serve others and make a difference in many lives, all while dealing with ALS in his own life.

I take this time to congratulate Tommy May once again on this tremendous honor and thank him for his tremendous courage and service to our district and our State.

CELEBRATING MARGIE GARVIN

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during Black History Month to celebrate a remarkable woman and a fierce advocate for Staten Island's African American community, Ms. Margie Garvin.

Sadly, Margie's unyielding commitment to increasing voter awareness was spurred by her own experience with racism after she moved to Staten Island's Park Hill Houses in 1979. When Margie went to borough hall to try to update her voter registration a man there mockingly told Margie: "You people don't vote."

"Well, if my people don't vote," she said, "where can I go get some voter registration forms?"

Ever since, she has been an unstoppable force on Staten Island, registering voters and getting people out to the polls.

In between election days, she is out there in the community, demanding better playgrounds for kids, holding her elected officials accountable, cooking meals for seniors, and so much more.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Ms. Margie Garvin, who is on the ground in the community, putting in the hard work to make New York City's Staten Island and the United States of America a better place.

RECOGNIZING PUBLIC SERVICE OF CARMEN GUTIERREZ

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

Mr. HURD of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the tremendous public service of Mrs. Carmen Gutierrez.

Carmen has served for 5 years as my Del Rio district representative, delivering the gold standard in constituent services to the people of Terrell, Val Verde, Kinney, and Uvalde Counties.

Carmen was born and raised in Texas and has made it her life's work to give back to her community. Before working for my office, Carmen served as district equipment superintendent at the Texas Department of Transportation, becoming the first female in history to serve in that role.

Carmen has played an integral role in her community and is beloved by those who call her friend and neighbor. When you walk through Del Rio, everyone knows her name.

At the end of February, Carmen will retire from public service. It is a retirement that is well earned: scores of constituent cases closed, hundreds of lives touched, and now a loving family eagerly awaits more time with Carmen.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Carmen on her distinguished career and upcoming retirement.

ILLUMINATING THE LEGACY OF CURT FLOOD

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

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, this Black History Month, I ask my colleagues to join efforts to illuminate the legacy of a true American hero, the late Major League Baseball All-Star center fielder Curt Flood.

In addition to 12 stellar seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals, Curt Flood struck a blow for dignity and civil rights by challenging a rule which allowed players to be traded against their will.

He noted in his refusal: "After 12 years in the major leagues, I do not feel I am a piece of property to be bought and sold irrespective of my wishes. I believe that any system which produces that result violates my basic rights as a citizen and is inconsistent with the laws of the United States."

My great friend Congressman TRONE and I are asking Members to join in a letter supporting the induction of Curt Flood into the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Flood's struggles might have ended his career, but he blazed a trail for the rights enjoyed by players today. It is this type of leadership and lasting contribution we recognize this Black History Month.

RECOGNIZING PAUL GRASSEY

(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. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Paul Grassey, who received the French Legion of Honor by the Consul General of France on January 28 for his role in liberating France during World War II.

During the war, Paul flew B-24 bombers for the Eighth Air Force in 13 missions. After the war, Mr. Grassey returned to Savannah and became heavily involved with the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, helping to educate people in the area about the Eighth Air Force's role in the war.

Paul gives tours at the museum and often goes into local schools to talk about the importance of World War II and freeing Europe from Nazi Germany.

In 2013, Paul wrote a book outlining his story before, during, and after the war while discussing the six pillars of having good character: trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship.

The French Legion of Honor is the highest military honor in France, and I could not be more proud that the Consul General has awarded it to Mr. Grassey of the First Congressional District of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Grassey on his award. I thank him for