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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. GALLEGO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 24, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RUBEN GALLEGO 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 4, 2021, 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 11:50 a.m.

THE NEED FOR 2002 AUMF REPEAL AND THE PEACE ACT

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

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, it is past time for Congress to reassert its role in the war powers discussion.

I proudly joined many of my colleagues from both sides of the aisle last week in voting to repeal the 2002 AUMF. This AUMF provided for military operations in Iraq, an Iraq that is far different from the one we know today.

The goal was to defend the United States against the threat posed by an Iraq of 20 years ago, specifically, that of Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein was captured in December of 2003 and executed 3 years later.

Despite ousting Saddam Hussein, the 2002 AUMF has remained on the books. Less than one-fifth of the current Members of the House of Representatives were present on that original AUMF vote. As you can imagine, many Members have entered Congress and left the Halls of Congress without ever taking a vote on the 2001 or 2002 AUMFs.

Repealing the existing AUMFs, like the one from 2002, can be a step in the right direction in Congress reasserting its Article I powers, but we should not stop there. We need to rethink how we approach military authorizations.

A few weeks ago, I introduced the Preventing Endless Armed Conflict and Engagement Act, or the PEACE Act for short. The goal of this bill is to ensure regular oversight is being conducted on future military authorizations.

First, this bill would require each military authorization, or AUMF, to terminate after 2 years. This is because the Constitution stipulates that military funding should not extend past 2 years. This would also ensure that every Member of Congress has the opportunity to weigh in on current military operations.

The PEACE Act would also set standards for drafting military authorizations. For instance, each authorization would need to set a geographic scope on where the military force can be used. A clear objective would need to be established for each authorization, and the countries and groups that the U.S. troops are authorized to fight must be listed.

Additionally, the Department of Defense and the State Department would be charged with publishing an annual, unclassified report on existing military

operations. This report will include information such as whether the military is meeting their objective, the number of casualties, and total cost. This will assist Congress in making the needed decisions that we have to make regarding AUMF reauthorizations. Finally, the DOD and State Department will be required to brief Members of Congress on the contents of this report once every 6 months.

It is critical that new Members of Congress, with new constituencies, have their chance at providing input into military operations. Many Members came to the floor last week to reiterate the importance of updating these existing AUMFs instead of repealing them. While I supported the repeal, I do hope that any updated or future AUMF incorporates elements from the PEACE Act.

Future AUMFs should be more concise and relied on for only a few years, not for a couple decades.

I look forward to working with Members from both sides of the aisle on future reforms to Congress' war powers authority.

NO CLIMATE, NO DEAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, we are living in a climate emergency. The carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere have reached the highest levels in human history.

In California, we have our worst drought in decades. Last week, we were hit by a heat wave that stretched from the West Coast to the Great Plains. This combination of unforgiving drought and relentless heat sets the conditions for another severe wildfire season. New Federal data shows the number of new wildfires this year is at a 10-year high.

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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In recent years, our country has also faced record floods, deep freezes, and hurricanes. And deadly wildfires have hit States beyond California.

Climate disruption is here. Congress has a responsibility to act boldly in response. The American Jobs Plan is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to meet the moment with a transformative investment in infrastructure.

We have the opportunity to build a clean-energy future that uplifts the communities who now suffer from the impacts of the fossil fuel industry. We must do it.

We must also recognize that communities of color have been hit first and worst by climate change. They must be at the front of the line for these investments. They must be represented in discussions on any infrastructure agreement.

We can afford to protect our planet, clean our air and water, and provide a better quality of life for communities all over the country.

We cannot afford an infrastructure bill that doesn't have climate at its center. We cannot afford a bill that doesn't invest in infrastructure that will create millions of jobs and serve the needs of our communities.

We need: clean energy, a resilient electric grid, electric vehicle charging, green affordable housing, zero-emissions public transit, climate smart ports, and more.

Our constituents did not send us here to back down when faced with climate deniers and deniers of taking any meaningful climate action.

If we don't do it now, when will it ever happen? This is our opportunity. Now is the time to stand up for the health and the well-being of our communities and our planet to say: No climate, no deal.

RECOGNIZING DISTRICT DIRECTOR BRIAN McDONALD AND THE MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Brian McDonald and his entire team at the Small Business Administration's Minnesota District Office.

In May 2020, at the height of the COVID pandemic, Brian took on an enormous challenge when he rose to the role of district director for the SBA's Minnesota region.

Brian and his team were charged with supporting Minnesota's 500,000 small businesses and their 1.3 million employees through one of the most challenging economic crises in our Nation's history. Under Brian's leadership, the SBA's Minnesota district office team facilitated critical loans, provided valuable training, and served as true warrior advocates for businesses of all sizes during this difficult time.

At the outset of the COVID-19 outbreak, Brian and I hosted a joint town hall where he helped my constituents understand how they could keep their small businesses afloat. Brian's participation was crucial, and his willingness to offer guidance and expertise is characteristic of his office's impressive work throughout the crisis.

Brian and his team in the SBA's Minnesota district office continue to work around the clock to help businesses in our State survive. We are grateful for all of their work, and we are fortunate to have such a dedicated SBA district presence in our State. I thank them for all they do.

CONGRATULATING MINNESOTA ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR ANGIE CHARBONEAU-FOLCH

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Angie Charboneau-Folch, assistant principal at Big Lake High School.

In April, Angie was named this year's Minnesota Assistant Principal of the Year by the Central Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals. She received this honor after 15 years of service as a school administrator, including a decade at Big Lake.

Angie has been a longtime advocate for both students and educators during her tenure. As leader of Big Lake High School's Student Targeted Instruction and Goals program, better known as STING, she has ensured that students receive the additional instruction time and support they need. She has also worked to open the channels of communication between teachers and families through her Being Your Own Champion initiative.

I congratulate Angie on this remarkable achievement. I thank her for her years of dedication to the Big Lake community, and I know Minnesota students are better off because of her support.

HONORING THE WORK AND BRAVERY OF HALO TRUST AFGHANISTAN

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the bravery and sacrifice of the HALO Trust employees who were recently attacked in Afghanistan. Earlier this month, 110 demining workers in the northeastern Afghanistan province of Baghlan were attacked. Ten HALO Trust workers lost their lives and 16 more were injured.

HALO Trust staff is comprised of locals who work alongside American citizens around the world to clear the debris of war, especially landmines. Their work is vital in Afghanistan, where nearly 40 years of conflict has left the land littered with explosives and citizens living under constant threat of detonation. This forces locals to make an unimaginable choice: either let their families starve or risk their lives to farm dangerous land.

Thanks to the work of HALO Trust and the entire demining community, war-torn nations across the globe are being revitalized. Within the Herat province alone, HALO Trust workers have cleared over 600 minefields and

provided steady employment to 2,600 Afghan locals.

This devastating attack was an act of cowardice from an organization that feeds off instability and fear. I commend the profound bravery of the workers who face down death to rebuild their communities. I hope everyone will join me in recognition of their sacrifice.

THANKING TAMMY BIERY AND CAREER SOLUTIONS

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Tammy Biery, the executive director of the employment agency Career Solutions.

Electrolux had a long legacy in our home State, employing Minnesotans since 1946. In 1998, the plant produced 75 percent of all freezers sold in the United States.

In 2018, the business was St. Cloud's eighth largest employer, with nearly 900 employees. However, a year later, Electrolux consolidated their freezer production to South Carolina. Despite our efforts and the efforts of the community urging Electrolux to reconsider, approximately 760 employees faced layoffs.

To support these workers who faced separation from employment, Tammy and her employment agency, Career Solutions, went to work. After receiving an award from the State Dislocated Worker program, Career Solutions offered career counseling, on-the-job training, and interview coaching to 513 former Electrolux employees. By the end of 2020, 159 of those trainees were gainfully employed.

Thanks to the work of Tammy and the Career Solutions team, St. Cloud was able to weather the largest layoff in our history. I thank Tammy for that.

TERESA BOHNEN: A CAREER OF SERVICE

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Teresa Bohnen. Teresa is retiring this year as president of the St. Cloud Area Chamber of Commerce.

Teresa led the chamber for the past 23 years. During that time, she has been a staunch advocate for small business.

Under Teresa's leadership, the St. Cloud Area Chamber earned a five-star accreditation from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce the first year it became eligible and has maintained that rating ever since.

I thank Teresa for her service to St. Cloud, and she should enjoy her well-earned retirement.

HONORING REVEREND RONALD V. MYERS, SR., M.D.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Reverend Dr. Ronald Myers, who was one of the real reasons that President