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No. 75

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. HOUCHIN).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 1, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ERIN HOUCHIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, 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.

### FOOD SECURITY IS NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, California is in its second consecutive wet year.

Every major reservoir in our State is above the 15-year average, and our snowpack in the Sierras is at more than 100 percent of average for this time of year.

These conditions should mean that our farmers and communities are fi-

nally getting the water deliveries that they desperately need after years of drought.

Sadly, that is not the case.

Central Valley Project contractors rely on meaningful allocations from the Bureau of Reclamation for their yearly planning, including the type of crops they will plant and when.

Despite these favorable conditions, our South-of-Delta farmers were still not allocated 100 percent of the water they contract and pay for this year from Reclamation.

In February, our South-of-Delta farmers were allocated just 15 percent of their contracted supply. In March, these numbers were updated to 35 percent. Just last week, these allocations were bumped to 40 percent, a mere 5-percent increase, with no real explanation or transparency on the decision-making process.

A 5-percent increase is insufficient for our family farms and downstream communities who rely on meaningful allocations from Reclamation to grow the food that feeds the world.

California grows a quarter of our Nation's food, so these allocations are critical to the fate of our Nation's food supply.

I urge Reclamation to significantly increase the allocations for South-of-Delta water contractors so our communities can meet the Nation's food supply needs.

Food security is national security, and our ability to grow food for the Nation will not survive without a reliable water supply for South-of-Delta agriculture.

### REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, it breaks my heart to

share that something just doesn't seem quite right speaking without first hearing the voice of the gentleman from New Jersey, the Honorable Donald Milford Payne, Jr.

No matter how soon you would come to do a 1-minute speech, Donald Payne was always first. I never figured out how he somehow beat everyone to the Chamber all the time. No matter how many 1-minute speeches the rest of us did, Donald would always do more.

One time our friend, Mr. JOE NEGUSE from Colorado, suggested that I had done more 1 minutes than Mr. Payne. Why did he say that? Donald quickly corrected him.

The name "Donald" means ruler or king. Indeed, Donald was the 1-minute king.

Many days we sat together. He would review his notes, going over what he was going to say, waiting to hear those words, "For what purpose does the gentleman from New Jersey seek recognition?"

Donald would then gently walk to the podium with his iPad in hand. Although he mostly said what he needed to in 1 minute, occasionally getting the gavel, Madam Speaker, I must use the 5-minute time period today because 1 minute would not do Mr. Payne justice.

Donald was not only a stylish and colorful individual, but he also brightened the House with his presence. He brightened us with his bow ties. He brightened us with his glasses. He brightened us even with his matching socks. He brightened us by using his voice as an instrument to speak up for the people of New Jersey's 10th Congressional District.

That is why he consistently received the John R. Lewis Award for his advocacy as captured right here. Look at him. He is happy. He is at peace. He is living the dream. He is on cloud nine. He is at peace.

We also had a special connection because there are a fair number of people

□ 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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living in New Jersey who are actually from North Carolina, and we had many memorable conversations about mutual friends between votes while sitting in the first and second seat waiting for 1 minutes.

New Jersey, please know that North Carolina stands with you.

Donald Payne was an encourager, and his last words to me were: You are a good man, and I want to help you. He said: Take care, and I will see you soon.

Little did I know that that would be our last conversation. His life and legacy deeply inspired all of us, and I will always cherish the moments we spent together.

Donald and his father served in the people's House for about 35 years, and we are deeply grateful for their service.

When his father passed and Donald assumed office, he once said: I am following a legacy, and I am not backing away from that.

He didn't back away from it. He continued his father's legacy. He continued to set a legacy for his three children and children across the country, and he continued the legacy by making America better.

My heart goes out to his wife, Beatrice, and the Payne family. I extend my deepest condolences to them and to New Jersey's 10th Congressional District. The flowers that now rest in the seat Donald often occupied reflect his inner beauty and radiance.

Madam Speaker, Donald's last floor speech, interestingly, was on housing out of all issues. What a way to end. What a way to remind us all that there is a house of many mansions.

Madam Speaker, I thank Donald for showing us humility, showing us meekness, showing us kindness, brightening this institution, and using his voice to advocate for the American people.

Farewell, my friend, and, yes, I look forward to seeing him soon. He will always be remembered, and we miss him dearly.

I end today with the last words Donald Payne spoke and shared on the floor. On March 22, he ended his final 1-minute speech this way: And with that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

#### HONORING GENERAL JACKIE DANIEL "DAN" WOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KUSTOFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a west Tennessee native and a true American patriot, the 73rd Adjutant General of Tennessee, Jackie Daniel "Dan" Wood.

Major General Dan Wood passed away peacefully at his home in Tennessee on April 12. Dan, as he was known, was born on Maple Street in Lexington, Tennessee. He attended Lexington City School and Lexington High School where he enjoyed playing basketball.

In 1961, Dan Wood answered the call to serve our Nation and enlisted in the United States Army.

Shortly thereafter, he deployed to Vietnam and bravely answered his call to duty.

Upon his return home, Dan enlisted in the Tennessee Army National Guard. He completed Officer Candidate School, the Tennessee Military Academy, and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1966.

General Wood went on to serve as commander of the 4th Battalion, the 117th Infantry, and the 30th Separate Armored Brigade. In 1995, Dan Wood was named as adjutant general by my friend and former Member of the House of Representatives, the late Governor Don Sundquist.

General Wood held this position until his retirement in July 2002.

As adjutant general, Dan oversaw numerous deployments of soldiers and airmen overseas, he ushered the National Guard into the 21st century, and he coordinated the Tennessee National Guard's response to the September 11 terrorist attacks.

General Dan Wood served in the military for more than 40 years. As a proud fourth-generation citizen of Henderson County and a fifth-generation Tennessean, we mourn a son of Tennessee, but we also celebrate a true American hero.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with his wife of 62 years, Janis; his son, Stuart; his daughter, Amy; and three grandchildren.

Dan Wood taught us all what it means to serve your country and to dedicate your life to preserving freedom for generations of Americans.

We truly miss him.

#### RECOGNIZING LIEUTENANT GENERAL A.C. ROPER

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

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary career and achievements of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper, the first African-American, three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve, as he celebrates his retirement from 41 years of service in the United States Army.

Lieutenant General Roper's extraordinary career began after he was commissioned in 1983 as a student at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He has an extensive military education and received master's degrees from both the University of Alabama and the U.S. Army War College.

Throughout his exemplary career, Lieutenant General Roper moved quickly up the ranks and broke down barriers for African Americans serving in the Armed Forces.

On May 14, 2021, he made history as the first African American to become a three-star general in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Most recently, he served as deputy commander of the U.S. Northern Com-

mand and vice commander of the U.S. Element, North American Aerospace Defense Command at Peterson Space Force Base in Colorado. He has received numerous awards and decorations.

Mr. Speaker, I got to know Lieutenant General Roper during his time as the chief of police for Birmingham Police Department. I was immediately impressed by his firm yet compassionate leadership style that commanded the respect of his fellow officers and endeared him to the Birmingham community.

Lieutenant General Roper's reputation has always been one of great purpose and great passion. He is an honorable man, guided by an abiding faith in God and a love of country.

On behalf of a grateful Nation, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Lieutenant General A.C. Roper after 33 years in law enforcement and 41 years of military service.

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#### RECOGNIZING SMALL BUSINESS WINNERS IN ALABAMA'S SEVENTH DISTRICT

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the award-winning small business owners in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District as we celebrate National Small Business Week.

Ms. Jackie Smith is the proud owner and operator of The Coffee Shoppe and Reflections in our hometown of Selma, Alabama. After leaving her job in 2011, Jackie bravely took on the risk of opening up her own small business, turning the site that once was a segregated diner into a beautiful coffee shop in the heart of downtown Selma. For 13 years, The Coffee Shoppe has provided a place for the community to come together, learn about Selma's history, and eat some great food.

Like any businessowner, Jackie has had her fair share of hardships. After the tornado of January 12, 2023, we saw her resilience, and thanks to an investment by the SBA, she was able to open her doors and continue The Coffee Shoppe's great legacy; and, in fact, she opened up another business, Reflections.

This week, Jackie's extraordinary entrepreneurship earned her national recognition as the Small Business Administration's 2024 Phoenix Award winner for outstanding disaster recovery efforts. We congratulate her on her outstanding achievements.

Today, I also recognize SBA's 2024 Small Business Persons of the Year in Alabama: Shanna Ullmann, Timothy Ullmann, and Robert Prescott of Transformation Partners, LLC in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Beginning in the year 2000, as a statewide training provider, their firm has grown tremendously over the past two decades. Today, they serve numerous clients in the field of higher education, government, military, and corporate America, offering consulting services and employee development programming.