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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, MAY 6, 2024

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 6, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RANDY K. WEBER, Sr. 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 1:50 p.m.

BAILING OUT ART STUDENTS

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden

unilaterally made the decision to cancel more than \$6.1 billion in debt for 300,000 art students across our country.

This is a bailout. This bailout is an insult to the tens of millions of Americans who either paid off their student loans or who never attended college in the first place.

Instead of using taxpayer dollars in an attempt to win votes, President Biden should be turning his attention to the runaway inflation that has impacted every man, woman, and child in America. Parents shouldn't have to choose between buying gas or buying groceries for their families. Parents should not have to dip into their savings or into their retirement accounts to afford basic goods.

Sadly, under President Biden, these decisions have become all too common. It is time to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on student bailouts and Green New Deal initiatives. It is time to return to fiscal restraint. It is time to put a stop to the runaway inflation that has become the trademark of the Biden administration.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S SECRET FLIGHTS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last week, the House Homeland Security Committee released documents that identified over 45 airport locations that were used by President Biden to secretly fly over 400,000 illegal immigrants into our country.

These documents, which the Biden administration only turned over under subpoena, show that Secretary Mayorkas and President Biden have been transporting illegal immigrants

into communities across the United States.

It is clear that President Biden is using our regional airports to spread this crisis and effectively make each and every State a border State.

The American people cannot afford to have a Homeland Security Secretary that fails to keep America safe, and Pennsylvania families cannot afford a President who cares more about illegal immigrants than about the American people.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR JOHN CRUZ

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize Mayor John Cruz as he serves his final term representing the village of Hagatna after almost two decades.

Before becoming the mayor of Guam's capital, Cruz faithfully served the government of Guam for 25 years. His tenure shows his commitment to the people of Guam has been unwavering since the beginning. He has been a strong advocate for the island and a champion of public service.

Present day, Cruz is known by many of his constituents for his beautification efforts in his village, ensuring Guam's special capital remains a cultural and historical hub.

Most importantly, Cruz is a family man, devoted Catholic, and reliable mayor who puts his constituents first.

□ 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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I thank Mayor Cruz for his dedication to the people of Hagatna. His leadership has been instrumental in making the village what it is today. I wish him the very best in retirement, and I am certain his legacy will be an inspiration to all future leaders to come.

HONORING DR. VINCENT DUENAS

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor a remarkable individual who has made significant contributions to the field of medicine, Dr. Vincent Duenas. His deep passion for healing and his tireless dedication to patient care has made a profound impact on the lives of countless individuals in my community, the island of Guam.

As he retires from his position, I thank him for 45 years of service at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

In addition to his distinguished career as an internal medicine doctor, he has also held the titles of GMH's associate hospital administrator of medical services and medical director of respiratory therapy, among many other positions.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Dr. Duenas' career is his exceptional ability to provide compassionate care. He has fostered an environment where patients can feel heard, understood, and supported.

Aside from his time in the medical field, Dr. Duenas also served our Nation in uniform for 20 years. He was a member of the Guam Army National Guard, ultimately retiring with the rank of colonel.

Dr. Duenas' accomplishments and contributions to medicine are truly inspiring. His dedication, expertise, and passion have made a positive impact on countless lives in Guam.

Today, we honor Dr. Duenas and wish him the very best in his retirement. I am certain his legacy will continue to inspire future doctors to come.

HONORING CARL PARKER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. D'ESPOSITO). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER of Texas) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one Senator Carl Allen Parker, a true southeast Texas giant.

Born in Port Arthur during the Great Depression, Senator Parker dedicated decades to serving the people of southeast Texas. He was a distinguished lawyer, statesman, and beloved native son of Port Arthur.

Senator Parker leaves behind a legacy of unwavering dedication to public service and tireless advocacy for the people of our great State. He will be remembered for his 34 years as a member of the Texas Legislature, starting with his election to the House of Representatives in 1962 and then later to the Texas Senate, where he served until 1995.

As we mourn the passing of this remarkable man, let us also celebrate his extraordinary life and the lasting im-

pact he had on our State. May his legacy inspire future generations of public servants to follow in his footsteps and continue the work of building a better Texas for us all.

HONORING JUDGE RANDALL HUFSTETLER

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the extraordinary life of the Honorable Kenneth Randall Hufstetler, State district judge of the 300th District Court of Brazoria County. For his relentless dedication to public service and remarkable contributions to our community, he will always be remembered as a Brazoria County icon.

Randy was a Texan whose life exemplified faith, family, and service. His tenure as a judge was marked by his steadfast commitment to upholding our United States Constitution. With integrity and diligence, he interpreted and applied the law to ensure fairness and justice in every single case that crossed his bench.

Despite losing his battle with cancer too soon, Randy's legacy of courage and strength will endure, inspiring us all. Though he may no longer walk among us, Randy's impact will continue to be felt in the lives he touched and the values he instilled.

To his beautiful family, Danette and kids, Randy was the epitome of love, strength, and devotion, cherishing each moment with them as the greatest gift of his life.

To Judge Kenneth Randall Hufstetler, we say farewell with gratitude and admiration.

HONORING GERALD SULLIVAN

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a distinguished Texan, Gerald Sullivan, who has been selected as the 2024 Buck N' Ball honoree.

Gerald's story is nothing but a pure Lone Star legend, showcasing grit, guts, and a whole lot of Texas-sized success.

From Galveston County to the halls of Texas A&M, Gerald's entrepreneurial spirit has left an indelible mark. As chairman of the Port of Galveston, he steered us through Hurricane Ike's wrath, ensuring our ports and Galveston's resilience.

His dedication to education and sharing insights with students reflects his commitment to the next generation, not to mention the Sullivan family's century-long legacy in the beef cattle industry, grazing cattle in salt grass pastures along the Coastal Bend and then shipping them from the Port of Galveston to Caribbean nations like Haiti and Cuba.

I congratulate Gerald and Susanne, his lovely bride, on Gerald receiving the Buck' N Ball award from the Bryan Museum in Galveston, where they are preserving Texas history. Gerald's commitment and dedication are inspiring to southeast Texas, and I am glad and proud to call him a friend.

DETERIORATING CONDITIONS IN NIGER

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

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD part II of the interim report that I have prepared for the House of Representatives titled: "Unwelcome in Niger."

[From the Office of Congressman Matt Gaetz]

PART II INTERIM REPORT—UNWELCOME IN NIGER SUMMARY

More than 1,000 U.S. service members currently stationed in Niger, Africa, at Air Base 101 and Air Base 201 are in danger. They are currently being treated as pawns by both the U.S. government and the government of Niger (Conseil national pour la sauvegarde de la patrie or the National Council for the Safeguard of the Fatherland) as a diplomatic negotiation regarding the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Niger is ongoing.

Currently, U.S. troops are being denied fresh rotations and needed medications for chronic illnesses as diplomatic overflights are stalled.

On information and belief, the Biden administration, and particularly the U.S. State Department, are concealing the dangerous conditions for U.S. troops in Niger to avoid the embarrassing reveal that their Africa strategy has failed. It has led to little more than collapsed governments, coups, and orders to leave countries we once deemed a "model" for U.S. cooperation, as Russia and China continue to advance their interests.

BACKGROUND

On April 17, 2024, this office filed with the House an initial report on troop conditions in Niger, Africa. A copy of this report is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

The report detailed an unfolding scandal, risking troop welfare to avoid the diplomatic embarrassment as the Biden administration has deployed an Africa strategy rife with coups, failures, and functionally abandoned U.S. service members. All with little to show for the billions of dollars of U.S. taxpayer funds wasted in the continent.

The Report detailed specific concerns expressed by troops in Niger, Africa, their belief that intelligence regarding their condition was being suppressed by U.S. Embassy Niger, and the Department of State's inability to negotiate diplomatic overflights to achieve troop rotations and deliver life-sustaining supplies, such as clean water and medicine for chronic conditions.

The report further illuminated the presence of Russian troops at Air Base 101, behind the wire. This is unprecedented.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES

WITHDRAWAL

On April 20, 2024, the Biden administration fessed up that U.S. troops would be leaving Niger following the embarrassing demand to do so by the government of Niger. Unfortunately, this announcement has neither eased tensions nor facilitated better well-being for U.S. troops. During the negotiations surrounding the withdrawal, the U.S. government has not successfully obtained permissions to resupply U.S. installations in Niger, leaving our troops stuck and functionally abandoned, unable to return home.

DIPLOMATIC ENGAGEMENT, NIGER EMBASSY, WASHINGTON

On April 29, 2024, Congressman Matt Gaetz met with Chargé d'Affaires Idi Hassane at the Washington, D.C.-based Niger Embassy.

Mr. Hassane assured Congressman Gaetz that all overflights requested by the U.S.