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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. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 23, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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 3, 2025, 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.

HONORING STEPHEN SIAO, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a valued member of my team and a true American patriot, Mr. Stephen Siao.

Stephen has been my chief of staff since I first entered the House of Representatives in 2019. From day one, Stephen built and nurtured a high-functioning office dedicated to serving the people of Tennessee's Seventh Congressional District.

Over the course of three terms, Stephen consistently exceeded expectations and faithfully fulfilled his oath to the Constitution. Whether it meant staying up late to help a stranded constituent secure a passport or ensuring our servicemembers at Fort Campbell have the safest barracks, Stephen's dedication to public service was unwavering. Under his leadership, my office has helped over 7,100 constituents with casework, a testament to his tireless efforts.

Stephen is not only an exceptional leader but also a remarkable mentor. He has spent countless hours guiding and supporting junior staff, many of whom have gone on to achieve great things.

Stephen's generosity to others has been the hallmark of his time in the House of Representatives. He consistently encouraged his colleagues to do the right thing, even if it was the hard thing. He has a resolute commitment to faith, country, and those whom the Lord blesses him to lead and serve. His loyalty has meant the world to me and my team.

For me personally, I most admire Stephen's humility. I often describe him as having an ability-to-humility ratio of infinity.

At the beginning of the 118th Congress, my colleagues entrusted me with the chairmanship of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Among the most consequential decisions I made after taking the gavel was to bring Stephen on as the staff director. I knew Stephen's strong work ethic and unwavering integrity made him the ideal choice to lead the committee staff during a challenging time in America's history.

As staff director, he navigated the complex impeachment proceedings of a sitting Cabinet Secretary, a first in our Nation's history. Stephen also led the committee's efforts to write the border security portion of H.R. 2, the Secure

the Border Act. Additionally, Stephen spearheaded our efforts to modernize the Department of Homeland Security to address challenges of the 21st century. Thanks to his leadership, our Nation is safer.

Beyond his many accomplishments, Stephen will be dearly missed for the selfless love and unwavering support he has shown countless colleagues. While shunning the spotlight and any recognition, this dedicated public servant has always put others first. His mentorship and wisdom, often delivered with a touch of Tolkienian wit, will be deeply missed.

As he embarks on this new chapter, I wish him well, echoing the words of Gandalf the Grey: "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us." Stephen has taken this advice to heart, always using his time in this body wisely and inspiring us all to do the same.

On behalf of the people of the Seventh District of Tennessee and the United States Congress, I wish him well as our Nation calls him further up and further in toward another post serving our country. I thank Stephen. May God bless him.

OPPOSING EXPANSIONIST RHETORIC

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WITTMAN). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, I rise in strong opposition to the expansionist rhetoric that President Trump is directing toward America's strongest and longstanding allies and international partners.

Four days into the new administration, it is clear that the Trump foreign policy doctrine is motivated by territorial expansion and revanchism, or

□ 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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the obsession to recover so-called lost land.

This distorted worldview is anathema to America's historic role in defense of freedom across the globe. It also mirrors the imperial ambitions that have misled the likes of Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping into exerting economic and military power to attack and threaten sovereign nations and the rights of self-governing people in Ukraine, the Republic of Georgia, and Taiwan.

In his inaugural address, President Trump pronounced that the U.S. will "expand our territory." He has specifically proposed that we make Greenland great again by annexing the island from Denmark, which is a NATO ally that he has threatened with tariffs unless it cedes to his demands. When asked if he would use military force to seize Greenland, President Trump refused to rule it out.

The President has similarly suggested that the U.S. could annex Canada as the 51st State, vowing to wield economic retribution against a country that, after World War II, helped us establish the very rules-based international order that he is now attempting to subvert.

As a matter of fact, since the First World War, more than 2 million Canadian Armed Forces personnel have fought right alongside, shoulder to shoulder, U.S. troops in defense of freedom and security in Europe, the Pacific theater, Korea, Kosovo, Haiti, Iraq, Libya, Syria, and Afghanistan. Nearly 120,000 Canadian servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of these U.S.-led operations. Just last year, Canada marked the 80th anniversary since over 14,000 of its Canadian soldiers stormed the beaches on D-day alongside American troops.

President Trump has also declared that he is taking back the Panama Canal, which returned to Panamanian control under the treaties negotiated by the U.S. and Panama in 1977. When asked if he would rule out the use of force to regain its control, the President refused to do so. The Republic of Panama is a strategic U.S. partner whose cooperation to combat drug trafficking, illegal immigration, and maritime piracy is vital to our national security.

Understandably, our allies and international partners have responded to these expansionist threats by reaffirming their right to self-determination.

The Prime Minister of Greenland stated: "Our future and fight for independence is our business." The Foreign Minister of Denmark warned: "We can't have a world order where [big] countries . . . can just help themselves to what they want."

The Prime Minister of Canada declared: "The 51st State, it is not going to happen."

The President of Panama just alerted the United Nations Security Council that President Trump may be violating the U.N. charter, which prohibits the

use of threats and force against the territorial integrity or political independence of other states.

Mr. Speaker, if President Trump continues to pursue expansionism at the expense of freedom and national security, America will join the ranks of gangster nations whose imperialist dictators violate international law just to expand their territorial power.

As Russian President Putin tells it, Russia has no borders, and Ukraine is simply historically Russian land that has been stolen.

President Xi has professed that Taiwan is China's "sacred territory" and that reunification is a "historic inevitability."

An American President simply cannot be espousing similar views.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to firmly reject expansionist rhetoric and actions taken by President Trump.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BERYL ANTHONY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am joined today by the Arkansas delegation, Messrs. Womack, Crawford, and Hill. We rise in honor of the life and legacy of Beryl Franklin Anthony, Jr., who passed away on Saturday, January 11.

Mr. Anthony, born in El Dorado, proudly represented the Fourth District of Arkansas in the House of Representatives from 1978 to 1993. His devotion to his family and friends and his 24 years of public service and commitment to the Natural State leave an indelible mark on his legacy.

Not only do I share a connection with Mr. Anthony through proud service of the Fourth District in the House of Representatives, but we are also both proud alumni of the University of Arkansas and both represented the Razorback athletics program.

Mr. Anthony's history of public service began in Fayetteville at the university, and in 1963, with his juris doctor in hand, he was ready to serve the people of Arkansas.

After his time as State assistant attorney general and deputy prosecuting attorney for Union County, Mr. Anthony chose to turn to private practice, serving as counsel for his fourth-generation, family-owned timber company, Anthony Forest Products.

Later, Mr. Anthony returned to public service, utilizing his background in law to lead several initiatives for Arkansas criminal code reform and improving the professionalism of State prosecutors.

In 1978, Mr. Anthony was sworn in as a Member of Congress. Receiving the confidence of his fellow Members, he served as the vice president for his freshman class. This proved to serve him well, as he was appointed to the

House Ways and Means Committee, where he was a leader in tax code negotiations.

After countless wins in Congress, Mr. Anthony returned to private practice, still serving where he could through corporate boards or charitable organizations.

A true son of the Natural State, Mr. Anthony was a lover of the great outdoors and a genuine sportsman, teaching his grandchildren how to fish and spending his time photographing wildlife.

I express my deepest sympathies to Mr. Anthony's wife, Sheila; his family; and all who benefited from his leadership, dedication, and tireless efforts, not only in the Halls of Congress but across the State of Arkansas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL.)

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman WESTERMAN for yielding to me. It is such a pleasure to be with him, Congressman CRAWFORD, and Congressman WOMACK in tribute to our late friend and former Member of Congress, Beryl Anthony.

His unwavering commitment to Arkansas and its people has left an indelible mark on our State and this institution. Born in El Dorado in 1938, Beryl graduated from El Dorado High School and, as BRUCE said, went on to become an Arkansas Razorback. He came to the people's House in 1979 as Representative of the Fourth District, and he brought a deep sense of responsibility and commitment to the people of LA, lower Arkansas.

Over the next 14 years, he proved himself to be a tireless advocate, a thoughtful policymaker, and a champion for the working families in the Fourth District. As a senior member of the Ways and Means Committee, he was instrumental in preserving Social Security's future through the Social Security Amendments of 1983.

I was a Senate staffer in the early 1980s, and I witnessed Beryl's dedication to the Natural State firsthand while working with the Arkansas delegation on the passage of the Arkansas Wilderness Act of 1984.

□ 1015

In a time when politics often divided us, Beryl understood the power of working across the aisle, and that dedication enabled him to achieve lasting results for his constituents. His commitment to bipartisanship became personal.

While attending new Member orientation in Williamsburg, Virginia, Beryl's daughter, Alison, met her future husband, Sam Bethune, the son of then Arkansas' Second District Congressman, Ed Bethune. Now, that is an Arkansas small-world, bipartisan love story.

Arkansas and our Nation have lost a great public servant in Beryl. My deepest condolences to Sheila, Alison, Lauren, and the entire Anthony family. It is a privilege to have witnessed