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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 6, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RENEE ELLMERS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, 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 each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF JOSHUA'S HEART FOUNDATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an extraordinary young man from my congressional district, Mr. Joshua Williams, on the fifth anniversary of his outstanding organization called Joshua's Heart Foundation.

At the age of 5, while watching "Feed the Children" one evening, a question

arose in Joshua's head: What else can I do to help? In the weeks following, Joshua would create the basis to what has now become a great charity in our community.

Today, Joshua's Heart Foundation has grown from feeding a handful of families to over 1,000 throughout south Florida in just a few years. Later this month, Madam Speaker, on April 30, from 12 to 4 p.m. at Palm Island Park in Miami Beach, in my congressional district, Joshua's Heart Foundation will be holding a celebration of its 5-year anniversary, and, yes, they will be feeding the hungry.

I encourage all in south Florida to join Joshua at this amazing event and again congratulate him on his many years of service to our community, even at such a young age.

RAPE IN THE MILITARY

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about an abomination, and I vow to speak about it every week until this Congress and this administration does something more than offer lip service.

Read my lips: The military must end rape in this country, and those who commit such crimes must be brought to justice. The fact that women in the military are being raped and our government is turning a blind eye is disturbing enough. Even worse, it is not our enemies abroad who are committing these horrific crimes. It's American soldiers abusing many of our own, often with nothing more than a slap on the wrist and sometimes with an unbelievable promotion.

We have a military culture that condones, and in some cases rewards, this type of abusive and violent behavior against female soldiers, who are now more likely to be raped by fellow sol-

diers than killed by enemy fire. This is a national disgrace, and the longer it goes unaddressed, Congress becomes an accomplice in these crimes.

You know, we in Congress do something really well—we hold hearings, and then we do nothing. Congress has held 18 hearings in the last 16 years on this issue, and nothing has changed. The Department of Defense estimates that over 19,000 servicemembers were raped or sexually assaulted in 2010; but due to fear of retribution and a failure to prosecute these crimes, only 13.5 percent are reported. These are Department of Defense figures: 19,000 soldiers raped in the military every year.

So beginning today, I am going to tell these women's stories on the House floor, and I'm going to keep telling them and keep telling them until something is done about it.

Earlier this year, 17 servicemembers, 15 of them women, filed a lawsuit against the Federal Government accusing the Pentagon of ignoring their own cases of sexual assault. Today, I want to tell you about one of those, Technical Sergeant Mary Gallagher. She deployed to Iraq in 2009 as a member of the Air National Guard. Her allegations are as follows. Now I'm warning you, some of the language is graphic.

On November 5, 2009, while she was deployed in Iraq, a coworker offered her a ride home to her living quarters. When she accepted, instead of driving her home, he drove her to a remote area and tried to kiss her. Technical Sergeant Gallagher threatened to report him. He became angry and verbally assaulted her. She reported the incident to command, but they claimed that they could do nothing about it.

On November 7, the coworker began to stalk Technical Sergeant Gallagher. He tried to break into her room, claiming she didn't know what she was missing. He telephoned her repeatedly. She again reported her coworker's threatening behavior to command but was

□ 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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