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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 11, 2017.

I hereby appoint the Honorable PAUL MITCHELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2017, 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. All time shall be equally allocated between the parties, and in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

KANSANS HELPING FELLOW AMERICANS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and speak in support of my friends in Texas and Florida who are currently fighting and recovering from Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. While my thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected, I am also reminded of the courage and resilience Americans display in these trying times. I am especially proud of my

State of Kansas' National Guard, who has assembled and are currently assisting those affected.

Airmen in the 184th Intelligence Wing out of McConnell Air Force Base, Wichita, Kansas, are currently conducting incident awareness and assessment activities in both Texas and Florida. They are compiling information by analyzing video footage and imagery of the affected areas, pinpointing where immediate assistance is required.

Additionally, soldiers from the 69th Troop Command in Topeka are also advising senior National Guard leaders to ensure the National Guard is successful in their response efforts and critical information is effectively communicated to the public.

I am incredibly proud of the National Guard and all Kansans who are currently helping our neighbors in Florida and Texas in multiple capacities. It is incredibly empowering to watch Americans come together during these trying times and lend a hand to the most in need.

ACKNOWLEDGING THE MANY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS ACROSS KANSAS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the many agricultural producers across Kansas who work tirelessly to keep the very heart of our Nation beating. I represent the largest agriculture-producing district in the country, and over recess I spent a great deal of time traveling 2,000 miles and holding some 10 farm bill listening sessions to find out exactly how we in Congress can best serve the needs of our producers.

On one of my farm bill listening tours, I was reminded of just how important the farm bill is to my district and countless others across the Nation. We must protect our farmers and ranchers, especially in this depressed agriculture economy. Farming is one of the riskiest, high-tech, most intricately complicated businesses out there.

As a member of the House Agriculture Committee, I look forward to working with my colleagues to take the voice of American farmers and translate it into an appropriate and well-defined farm bill. We must send the message to our farmers and small communities that we will continue to support them and ensure that their livelihoods are protected.

To do this, we must increase flexibility and make sure that crop insurance is available to all those who need it most. Crop insurance doesn't just protect the farmers, it protects the loan at the local bank, it protects downtown communities like yours and mine, it protects the co-ops, and it protects Main Street, America. America is protected by crop insurance.

I firmly believe it is our duty to make sure that those who put food on our tables aren't struggling to put food on theirs.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MITCHELL) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Dear Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

On this anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy, we ask Your blessing of peace upon our Nation and the world. May

□ 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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