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No. 29

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 14, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK 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 8, 2018, 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 11:50 a.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

SALUTING LEWIS WOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, new Boy Scouts make a promise to do their best to do their duty to God and country and to help other people at all times.

Mr. Lewis Wood from Stokes County, North Carolina, has not only fulfilled that promise, he has lived it to the fullest. Mr. Wood joined the Boy Scouts of America in January 1943. Later, he served as a volunteer and Scoutmaster for Troop 440 for 50 years.

When Mr. Wood and his family were recently informed of his pancreatic cancer diagnosis, he was focused on living until this January, the 75th anniversary of his becoming a Scout. What an admirable spirit and a wonderful man. After a lifetime of service, Mr. Wood is now preparing for his next journey.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Wood for his 75 years of dedication to the Boy Scouts and Stokes County.

DREAMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns and my deep shame for many in this Chamber who continue to gamble with the lives of over 800,000 Dreamers, young people who are workers and students. They are teachers and members of our Armed Forces. They are dads and moms.

After five continuing resolutions, we still have left them out in the cold, over 800,000 of them. This week, the Senate is, once again, sandbagging the Dreamers. While Senator MCCONNELL has publicly made this an open debate, it is far from being a fair process.

Just yesterday, a Federal judge in the Eastern District of New York ruled conclusively that eliminating DACA and the benefits extended to DACA recipients is an illegal act. Just as this is happening, the Senate continues and begins to sandbag the Dreamers by first putting on the table the issue of sanctuary cities.

Many have a flawed view of what sanctuary cities are. Many erroneously think that sanctuary cities harbor hardened criminals. That is far from the truth.

A sanctuary city is a city that allows a mom to take her child to school, who

is undocumented, without fear that the principal will call ICE or the authorities.

A sanctuary city is a city that allows a senior citizen to go into an emergency room to be treated in a hospital without the fear that the nurse will turn him or her in.

A sanctuary city is a city that allows people who are living under the shadows to go into a police precinct and report a crime without the fear that they will be deported.

That is what a sanctuary city is. It is an intricate part of our soul as a country of immigrants and States and cities of immigrants.

The Senate process is far from being fair. A fair process would be to start a bipartisan debate on Dreamers. The Speaker of this Chamber has yet to make a commitment to bring a clean Dream Act to the floor.

Dreamers are our children. They are my children. They belong to all of us. When we look into their faces, I see my own face. When I look into their faces, I see a genius MacArthur Fellow winner like Cristina Jimenez and Ivan Rosales, who is working toward becoming a doctor in the military.

There is so much aspiration in these Dreamers. This is why over 80 percent of Americans in red States and blue States and in Republican districts and in Democratic districts support Dreamers staying here in the United States.

They represent the best of us. They represent the foundation of our Nation and the tenets of what the Founding Fathers believe in: that people should come to America, prosper, and make her a better place for all of us to live in.

Mr. Speaker, the fate of these young people rests right here in the palm of our hands. We need to ask ourselves: Are we a nation of aspirations? Or are we a nation of deportations?

□ 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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It is in our hands. We cannot keep deferring a vote on a clean Dream Act. A deferred vote is a dream denied. Justice delayed is justice denied.

But I tell the Dreamers this: Don't be afraid. Don't be discouraged. Don't be deterred. Don't be dismayed. You have to continue to fight for the most important issues facing America. You have done a tremendous job. Keep this fight moving forward for justice in America.

COMMEMORATING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF THE BROTHERS TO THE RESCUE SHOOT-DOWN

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 22nd anniversary of the Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down, where three U.S. citizens and one U.S. resident were murdered by the tyrannical Castro regime.

On February 24, 1996, Carlos Costa, Mario de la Pena, Armando Alejandro, and Pablo Morales were on a humanitarian mission over international airspace, over international waters when they were illegally and brutally shot down. This mission over the Florida straits sought to save the lives of Cubans fleeing Castro's grip of power in search of freedom.

Sylvia Iriondo was rescued in a Cessna and brought to the safety of our shores. You see, Mr. Speaker, Sylvia was aboard the only plane that survived on that fatal day. She recounts how, after seeing the burst of smoke over the skyline, the pilot, Jose Basulto—who, along with Sylvia, has testified before the U.S. Congress—pleaded on the radio for his colleagues to respond. Twenty-two years have passed and justice for the deaths of our American heroes has yet to be achieved.

Ruben Martinez Puente, Lorenzo Alberto Perez y Perez, and Francisco Perez y Perez have all been indicted in our U.S. courts for their roles in the murderous Brothers to the Rescue shoot-down, but they have yet to be held accountable.

I have urged administration after administration to bring these perpetrators to the United States so that they can be prosecuted and justice can be served.

Furthermore, the Obama administration made the grave error of releasing Cuban spy Gerardo Hernandez, who was convicted of conspiracy to commit espionage and conspiracy to commit murder for his role in the deaths of these brave pilots—released.

I will continue to urge our Department of Justice to pursue legal action against all current and former Cuban regime operatives who perpetrated that murderous attack against the Brothers to the Rescue aircrafts, its unarmed victims, and all Cuban operatives who planned or otherwise participated in the shoot-down.

To this day, the same regime that violated international law to kill Carlos, Mario, Armando, and Pablo remains as oppressive as ever, routinely beating and harassing peaceful protesters and incarcerating journalists.

We cannot let anyone forget the blood at the hands of the Castro regime. The Brothers to the Rescue and their families will forever serve as an inspiration to those who are willing to endure great sacrifices for the sake of a free Cuba.

COMMEMORATING THE 2018 FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY TORCH AWARDS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the recipients of the 2018 Torch Awards from my alma mater, Florida International University.

The Torch Award is the highest honor given to both faculty and alumni by the FIU Alumni Association, highlighting the excellence that they bring to their professions and the pride they bring to FIU as an educational institution. Their exceptional achievements and contributions not only to our university but to our Miami community at large have earned them this prestigious award.

This year's honorees include: Alumnus of the Year Chad Moss, class of 1994. Chad currently serves as the executive vice president of Moss and Associates, one of Florida's largest private construction companies.

Outstanding Faculty Award Recipient Dr. Mark Allen Weiss. Dr. Weiss is an eminent scholar chaired professor and the associate director of academic affairs for the FIU School of Computing and Information Sciences.

Community Leadership Award recipient Seth Crapp of the class of 1998. Seth is a pediatric radiologist and has demonstrated exemplary service and civic engagement in his community through his activism at Knots4Kids, T. Leroy Jefferson Medical Society, and two-time chair of the group's annual health fair which has benefited thousands of underserved children in Palm Beach.

Lastly, the Charles E. Perry Young Alumni Visionary Award recipient, Manny Varas, class of 2010 and an MBA in 2014. Manny, the president and CEO of MV Group, a full service construction company, has made great strides in the early stages of his career.

These individuals, Mr. Speaker, and the many other distinguished alumni honored this year exemplify what it means to be an FIU Panther. Their service to the betterment of our community makes them valuable and deserving of this great honor. I congratulate them all.

Go Panthers.

VALENTINE'S DAY DOMESTIC ABUSE REMINDER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, today is Valentine's Day. Children will pass around

cards and candy at school. Young men and women will gather the courage to speak with their crush, and many couples will get engaged to marry.

I sent my first Valentine, my mother, flowers. I will spend this evening telling my wife, Monica, and my girls, Sky and Sage, the many ways that I love and appreciate them over FaceTime.

But for many, today is not a joyous day. There are too many victims of domestic abuse who live in homes of broken hearts and who search for love but find violence instead. No form of mental, emotional, sexual, or physical abuse is acceptable no matter who it is from or under any circumstance, period.

I thank the many organizations, like Shelter From the Storm, Coachella Valley Rescue Mission, and others in my district, for the refuge and support that they provide.

To the victims: I want you to know that you are not broken and you are not at fault. You are a survivor and you have the courage. Help is only one phone call away. Happy Valentine's Day.

□ 1015

ILLEGAL ALIEN AMNESTY FINANCIAL COSTS

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

Mr. BROOKS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, America cannot afford to be the world's orphanage because we simply do not have the money. America's 2015 deficit was \$438 billion. America's 2016 deficit deteriorated to \$585 billion. America's 2017 deficit deteriorated yet again to \$666 billion.

Now, thanks to last week's debt junkie spending bill, America faces a trillion-dollar deficit this year. By every account, America's deficit threatens a dangerous insolvency and bankruptcy that will destroy the America it took our ancestors centuries to build. Let there be no mistake about it, illegal aliens are a large part of America's debt problem. Per a recent Federation for American Immigration Reform study, illegal aliens are a \$116 billion per year net tax loss to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. America tried amnesty in 1986, and it failed miserably, turning a 1 to 2 million illegal alien problem into today's 15 million illegal alien disaster. Why? Because amnesty does not stop illegal conduct; rather, it encourages illegal conduct.

It baffles me that Washington's "Surrender Caucus" refuses to learn from history and anxiously seeks to repeat 1986's bad mistake, at great cost to America. And the cost is great.

A 2015 Center for Immigration Studies report disclosed that more than 60 percent of households that have an illegal alien in them are on welfare, compared to only 30 percent of households