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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 115<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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No. 56

## House of Representatives

The House met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. COMSTOCK).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
April 9, 2018.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BARBARA COMSTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

### PRAYER

Reverend Vincent DeRosa, St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, Washington, D.C., offered the following prayer:

God our Creator and Guide, as this House seeks to participate in Your own loving care for our people, grant its Members likewise a participation in Your wisdom, prudence, and perseverance in good.

Rouse in their hearts a humble reverence for those who have gone before us and joyous hope for the future.

In particular, excite in their deliberation a lively concern for the most vulnerable among us so that each and every person may be assured of needed comfort when their hour of need inevitably comes.

We ask these and all other blessings in accord with Your will for these United States of America.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 796, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 6, 2018.

Hon. PAUL RYAN,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Texas' 27th Congressional District as their representative in Congress. While I had intended to serve out the remainder of my term, after much thought and prayer, my family and I have decided that now is a good time for me to step aside.

Therefore, effective at 5PM today, April 6, 2018, I have submitted a letter of resignation as a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 27th District of Texas to Governor Greg Abbott, Texas. (copy attached)

Helping people, especially veterans with their problems with the government was the high point of my career. I feel like I have made a difference for lots of people individually, the district and the country, but for a variety of reasons, I know in my heart that my time in Congress is over.

I wish all the best and may God bless us all.

Sincerely,

BLAKE FARENTHOLD,  
*Member of Congress.*

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 6, 2018.

Hon. GREG ABBOTT,  
*Governor,*  
Austin, TX.

DEAR GOVERNOR ABBOTT: It has been an honor and privilege to serve the people of Texas' 27th Congressional District as their representative in Congress. While I had intended to serve out the remainder of my term, after much thought and prayer, my family and I have decided that now is a good time for me to step aside.

Therefore, effective at 5PM today, April 6, 2018, I resign my position as a member of the United States House of Representatives representing the 27th District of Texas.

Helping people, especially veterans with their problems with the government was the high point of my career. I feel like I have made a difference for lots of people individually, the district and the country, but for a variety of reasons, I know in my heart that my time in Congress is over.

I wish all the best and may God bless us all.

Sincerely,

BLAKE FARENTHOLD,  
*Member of Congress.*

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FARENTHOLD), the whole number of the House is 429.

### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on April 3, 2018, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 4547. To amend titles II, VIII, and XVI of the Social Security Act to improve and strengthen the representative payment program.

H.R. 1865. To amend the Communications Act of 1934 to clarify that section 230 of such

□ 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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