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Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 3 p.m.

House of Representatives

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 8, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DIANA DEGETTE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We ask Your blessing upon this assembly and upon all who call upon Your name. Send Your spirit to fill their hearts with those divine gifts You have prepared for them.

May Your grace find expression in their compassion for the weak and the poor among us, and may Your mercy encourage good will in all they do and accomplish this day.

As the Members of the people's House face the demands of our time, grant them and us all Your peace and strength, that we might act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. TAKANO. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from California (Mr. LOWENTHAL) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LOWENTHAL led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to five requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

REDISTRICTING REFORM

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased and proud to stand here in support of H.R. 1, but I am especially proud that H.R. 1 contains the Redistricting Reform Act, legislation that was introduced by Representatives LOFGREN, BROWNLEY, and myself.

This legislation would require States to create independent redistricting commissions to draw congressional seats, removing politicians and partisan gerrymandering from the process.

I have worked for decades on this cause. I helped to lead in the California Legislature on redistricting efforts, which ultimately led to the creation of the California independent redistricting commission, which is now recognized as one of the best practices in redistricting.

Let's follow this example across the country. Let's have Members here who represent fair and equitable districts and who are elected to represent their districts and not just to protect incumbency.

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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H2589

PROMOTING AMERICAN VALUES THROUGH PEACE CORPS

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, 58 years ago this week, President John F. Kennedy signed an executive order establishing the United States Peace Corps. Since then, more than 200,000 Americans have participated in international service opportunities through the Peace Corps.

International service organizations like the Peace Corps and student exchange programs operated by the Department of State play an important role in promoting the image of America around the world. These programs provide American volunteers with a chance to learn about their host country's society and values, and, in turn, volunteers share American culture and values with the people of their host country. This fosters a great understanding of and strong friendship between our country and those around the world.

The Peace Corps was created with the strong belief that Americans are willing to contribute part of their life to the country. President Kennedy said that we must not merely aim to have an economic advantage in life, but we must strive for a greater purpose. Madam Speaker, for 58 years, the United States Peace Corps has provided thousands of Americans with that greater purpose.

EXPANDING VOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. PANETTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1 so that more Americans can exercise their right to vote.

On election day of last year, voters in my district on the central coast of California set a new record for turnout in a midterm election.

In San Benito County, we saw one of the highest increases in the State for folks registering to vote.

In Monterey County, the majority of registered voters voted by absentee ballot and by mail. These are service-members who filled out their ballot from where they were stationed and also folks at home who could take time to thoughtfully cast their vote.

Unfortunately, on that same election day, voters around this country didn't have that opportunity, and they had to go to polling places where they faced malfunctioning voting machines and found their registration frozen or purged.

These instances left thousands of citizens without a vote and without a voice in our democracy. That is why we need to pass H.R. 1.

The most important persons in our democracy are not those who hold office, but it is those educated and informed voters who put us in office. Let's give those types of voters more opportunity to participate in our democracy and pass H.R. 1.

GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY

(Mr. COLLINS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, last Congress, the Judiciary Committee interviewed multiple DOJ and FBI officials about their actions regarding the 2016 elections.

People anticipate the Mueller report soon. Will he find any so-called collusion, or was the only collusion among agency personnel who hated the President and started this investigation?

Our interview transcripts were pertinent to a congressional investigation; but the 115th Congress ended, the investigation was closed, and copies were shared with certain Members of Congress.

Out of an abundance of caution, we gave DOJ an opportunity to review them for information that would endanger national security; but after many months and little progress, our patience grows thin.

The proposed redactions had nothing to do with national security and are anathema to our goal of government transparency. I am, therefore, today making one of those transcripts public.

Madam Speaker, to avoid burdening GPO with a 200-page transcript, I include in the RECORD the link www.dougcollins.house.gov/ohr so the American people can review the transcript of Bruce Ohr.

I intend to make other transcripts public soon. I am willing to consider any reasonable redactions DOJ makes in a timely manner but won't allow these transcripts to remain shrouded in secrecy.

A VICTORY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, we are delivering a major victory for American families today, a victory for transparency, integrity, and accountability in our democracy.

I am proud to have helped introduce H.R. 1, the For the People Act, because, in every corner of Illinois, I hear from folks who are frustrated about politics. They are frustrated with the secret and dark money that enters politics; they are frustrated by the self-dealing in Washington; and they are frustrated by the culture of corruption that rewards the powerful while the voices of hardworking Americans are drowned out.

Our For the People Act will bring fundamental change to Washington.

Our bill will end the dominance of big money in politics; it will ensure that elections are fair; and it will make sure Congress is working for the people instead of for themselves, banning Members from serving on corporate boards.

Our For the People Act will make it easier to vote.

Madam Speaker, the American people sent us here to clean up the mess in Washington. Today we are delivering on that promise.

HONORING VETERAN OF THE MONTH PETER LUITWIELER

(Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KEVIN HERN of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Peter E. Luitwieler, an American hero and a true friend to our country's veterans.

Mr. Luitwieler served in military intelligence during the Vietnam war, and in January of 1968, when his compound was surrounded by enemy troops and the machine gunners abandoned their posts, Mr. Luitwieler and a brave marine manned the machine guns for hours, keeping the enemies at bay and protecting the lives of their team. For this act of bravery, he was awarded the Vietnamese equivalent of the Bronze Star.

After he retired, Mr. Luitwieler dedicated his time to fellow veterans. He now serves as a program manager for Warrior Partnerships of Eastern Oklahoma and the Oklahoma Veterans Connections, and he is a mentor to veterans going through the Tulsa Veterans Treatment Court, going above and beyond to enrich the lives of Oklahoma's veterans.

Mr. Luitwieler is an incredible example of the great men and women who have served our country every day. He is the First District's March 2019 Veteran of the Month, and I am honored to recognize him with this award.

HONORING POLICE CHIEF KRISTEN ZIMAN ON INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Ms. UNDERWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I rise today on International Women's Day to honor a woman who has been a pillar of strength in my community during a particularly difficult time.

Last month, in Aurora, Illinois, we had five neighbors killed in a terrible act of gun violence. If you watched the news following that tragedy, you saw a woman, Chief of Police Kristen Ziman, exuding strength, compassion, resolve, and leadership following an event we never imagined would happen in our community.

Chief Ziman leads the second biggest police department in our State of Illinois—no small feat considering that