



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2019

No. 45

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DARREN SOTO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2019, 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.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF H. LEON COMER, SR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of H. Leon Comer, Sr., who passed away at the age of 91 on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. He was a man born of humble means who never lost sight of where he came from.

He was the son of the late John Stoll Comer, Sr., and Annie Lee Roach

Comer, where he was one of seven siblings. He was born in Rock Hill, South Carolina, where he attended Oak Ridge Elementary School and later served in the United States Merchant Marines.

He was married to Francis Watkins Comer for 64 years and had two children, Brenda Comer Sutton and Leon "Chip" Comer, Jr.

Leon Comer believed in the value of hard work and, after working as a manager of a beer distributor in the greater Rock Hill market for 12 years, he founded Comer Distributing in 1971, with only five employees, distributing 250,000 cases of beer, with only three routes.

The original building, consisting of only 5,000 square feet, was located on Pendleton Street, and later expanded to 17,000 square feet to a much larger site on Carmel Road.

Comer Distributing expanded into the greater Columbia market in 2012 and, 1 year later, added another 11,200 square feet of space. The company opened in a two-story office building in 2018, along with an expanded warehouse. The company has grown to 70 employees, providing 1.5 million cases of a variety of brand-name beverages each year.

Leon retired in 1990; however, over the course of his lifetime, he served on many boards, clubs, and commissions, including the Rock Hill Economic Development Board; York County Natural Gas Authority; York Masonic Lodge #385; Hejaz Shriners; Winthrop Eagle Club, where he was a founding member; Ducks Unlimited; the South Carolina Beer Wholesalers Association, serving twice as chairman of the board; the Waterfowl Association; the American Legion; Frank Roach Post #34; the USC Gamecock Club; and many more organizations and local groups.

Leon and his wife, Frances, were longtime members of St. John's United Methodist Church, where he was very active for many years. The lives that

have been positively affected by the giving and donations to Christian causes, such as the men's shelters and the Boys and Girls Clubs, will be remembered for years to come.

The company is now being run by his son, Chip Comer, and the legacy of his father can be summed up by the words of Chip when he said the following: "My father is the epitome of what I would always want to be, as he taught me so many life lessons growing up."

Leon Comer left an indelible imprint on the many lives that he touched, and he will be remembered as a man who epitomized the meaning of "true service above self" and was a man who dedicated his life to serving his faith, his family, and his country.

May God bless Leon Comer and his family.

FIX THEM BEFORE WE FLY THEM

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise; and I rise today because I love my country and because I love the people, and I love their lives and I care about them. And because I love them and I care about them, I call upon the President of the United States of America to ground the 737 MAX 8.

This plane is unfit to fly. We have had two go down in the last 6 months. Two down within 6 months is two too many.

We cannot put profits above people, Mr. President. This is an opportunity for you to exert your executive power in a positive way on behalf of people who fly these planes.

It is not about the pilots; it is about the planes. These planes are unfit to fly, and we cannot put profits above people, and they are to be grounded until they are fit.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H2683