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## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 1, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Mariel Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

### 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

### REMEMBERING MIKE FALCONITE

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

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend, Mike Falconite of Kentucky, who passed away on Friday, March 29, 2019, at the age of 62.

Mike was born to the late Joe Falconite and Betty Lou Falconite and

grew up in Cairo, Illinois. Mike's father owned and operated a heavy equipment company, which Mike took control of and moved to Paducah with his family in the 1980s.

Mike was a great friend of mine who will be remembered for his work ethic, generosity, big heart, and passion for the outdoors.

Mike expanded his company to multiple States and employed hundreds of people before selling it in 1995 and setting his sights on real estate in Paducah, starting up Falconite Development. I admired Mike's vision for Paducah and his enthusiasm for developing and expanding the community.

Mike's motto was, "The more you build, the more you learn." He lived that motto in many aspects of his life.

When Mike was not looking for the next real estate venture, he enjoyed boating at Kentucky Lake and hunting, which took him on many adventures across the United States and other countries in search of prized game.

He loved spending time with his family, including his two children, Nicki Roof and Joe Falconite, plus seven grandchildren.

Mike was a humble, fair, and passionate man who was always willing to help others in need. Giving the benefit of the doubt to anyone he encountered, he will, undoubtedly, be remembered by those who loved him as hard-working, charitable, and incredibly passionate. I join with all of Mike's friends and family today in honoring his life, legacy, and love for others.

### CONGRATULATING BRANDON GARNETT

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Brandon Garnett of Christian County for recently receiving the 2019 Friend of Agriculture award.

Brandon Garnett has proved to be a strong advocate for agriculture and the farmers of western Kentucky. He has facilitated a number of important ag-related activities in the community, including the Christian County Cattle-men's rodeo scholarships for local

youth and the soon-to-be ag expo center. Brandon is regional vice president for Farm Credit of Mid-America and serves on several boards throughout the city of Hopkinsville.

In receiving the Friend of Agriculture award, Brandon shared the role his father played in shaping his outlook on being a friend to agriculture and how "to always know that agriculture was a way of life and something that would always provide well if you put your heart into it."

I am proud to know we have individuals like Brandon who work tirelessly to advocate on behalf of our agriculture community, serving, teaching, and always offering a helping hand.

Again, I congratulate my good friend, Brandon Garnett, on being named the 2019 Friend of Agriculture, and I look forward to his continued success in Christian County and beyond.

### CONGRATULATING CASEY DITTRICH

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the efforts of Casey Dittrich, road superintendent of Antelope County, Nebraska, to repair the many roads damaged by the storms and flooding that battered our State and much of the Midwest last month.

Even before the floodwaters had crested, Casey was actively formulating plans to repair the roads, having contracted outside employees and a large fleet of equipment to commence repairs as soon as possible.

Through his efforts, Antelope County has made steps toward reopening its more than 1,000 miles of gravel roads and 180 miles of paved roads for students to attend schools and livestock producers to continue their daily business, as well as many others.

In his 3 years working for Antelope County, Casey's efforts have garnered respect from his coworkers, and his work throughout this flood has greatly

□ 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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