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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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helped the county along its long way to recovery.

Please join me in thanking Casey Dittrich for his proactive and diligent service to Antelope County, Nebraska.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY) at 2 p.m.)

PRAYER

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

We use this moment to be reminded of Your presence and to tap the resources needed by the men and women of this assembly to do their work as well as it can be done.

May they be led by Your holy spirit in the decisions they make. May they possess Your power as they steady themselves amid the pressures of persistent problems.

The issues facing our Nation this week are monumental to us but a part of the long history of political and policy debate that have created a great narrative of participative democracy.

Send Your spirit of wisdom to the justices and upon the Members who serve in this people's House, that the bills that lead forward might prove to be beneficial to our Nation and its people.

And 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 his approval thereof.

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. 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. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. 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 Texas (Mr. VELA) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. VELA 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.

GERALDINE PENA CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

(Mr. VELA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VELA. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Geraldine Pena of La Feria, Texas, as she celebrates her centennial birthday today. She was born on April 1, 1919, in Tucson, Arizona.

Geraldine, affectionately called Gerry, dropped out of high school to support her single mother and four younger siblings. After marrying her husband, Ralph, the couple relocated to his hometown of La Feria. There, she devoted her time to raising six children.

As her children grew older, Mrs. Pena was able to become more actively involved in the community, always lending a hand when possible. She was also an active member of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 409, and her involvement included local, State, and national conventions in Texas and Hawaii.

She is the proud grandmother of 13 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren, with more expected in the coming years.

I am pleased to honor Geraldine Pena for her legacy of unselfishness and generosity. Her devotion to her family and community is admirable, and I hope her 100th birthday celebration is filled with love and happiness. She is joined by family traveling from California, Illinois, Arizona, and across Texas.

I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Geraldine Pena a happy birthday and wishing her good health and prosperity.

RECOGNIZING LINCOLN HEIGHTS AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC PLACE

(Ms. FOXX of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an historic moment for North Carolina's Fifth District last week, when Lincoln Heights School in Wilkesboro joined the National Register of Historic Places.

From 1913 to 1927, Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington built nearly 5,000 schools in African American communities by matching seed funds provided by public and private entities. Lincoln Heights is among the few of these schools remaining. Constructed in 1924, students attended from six surrounding counties after facing discrimination and lacking educational opportunities near their homes.

As a National Historic Place, Lincoln Heights reminds us of the disgraceful history of segregation in our country, but our country is not defined by this injustice. Rather, as a nation, we are shaped by brave men and women who stand for justice when society fails.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MICHAEL KRATSIOS

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolinians are grateful that President Donald Trump has nominated Michael Kratsios, son of John and Maria Kratsios of Columbia, to be the U.S. Chief Technology Officer. He is a very successful and qualified leader to develop technology initiatives for the White House.

Under Michael's leadership, the White House has been able to develop plans for artificial intelligence, quantum computing, 5G, STEM education, and advanced manufacturing. Michael is a global leader and has proven that he is the best person to serve our country in this position.

Among many accomplishments, Michael led the American Artificial Intelligence Initiative, which secures American leadership and artificial intelligence research and development and opens the door for greater innovation.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross has praised the nomination of Michael Kratsios as putting a "knowledgeable leader at the helm of American technology."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 1, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 1, 2019, at 11:20 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 276.