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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 1, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BLOM ON HIS RETIREMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deepest gratitude and to recognize the career of David P. Blom, who is retiring as president and CEO of OhioHealth after 36 years. David became president of Grant Medical Center, located in downtown Columbus in my district.

Dave set out to make healthcare more accessible to underserved and di-

verse populations. Providing care to our most at-risk population was a focus of his for 30 years, and it is one that he has never lost. Mr. Speaker, I know that firsthand because I had the opportunity to witness his work.

I am so honored that David is with us today in the gallery.

As president of the entire OhioHealth system for the past 17 years, Dave has molded and elevated OhioHealth's commitment to all of the communities it serves as the largest hospital system in central Ohio.

Let me tell Members what I have witnessed.

When we talked about our babies and infant mortality, I remember it so well when Dave made that call and said we are going to keep our babies healthy. Thus, he spearheaded Wellness on Wheels' Women's Health, or as we like to call it in our home district, WOW, and what a wow it has been.

There is not enough time for me to highlight all the things that this incredible leader has done, but let me fast-forward to my time in Congress. I can remember how and when Congressman STEVE STIVERS and I talked about the great work, and there was an opportunity when then-Speaker Boehner wanted to revise the whole system for our veterans. STEVE STIVERS, a veteran, and Dave Blom, caring about our veterans, thus, he was appointed to the Federal commission to reform the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I can remember the exciting day when Dave Blom walked into my office, and it was the same day that we were having the House Chamber's joint session to hear the Japanese Prime Minister. I remember how excited he was to hear that we were going to host the Japanese Prime Minister, how great it was when he sat front and center in the gallery to hear that message.

The list goes on and on, but today is simply a day to say the two most powerful words that I can say about a great

leader, about someone who has changed the healthcare system not just for my district or Columbus, but for the Nation, and those two words are "thank you."

Thank you for being a leader. Thank you for being a public servant. But most of all, Dave P. Blom, thank you, thank you for being my friend. I salute you.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind Members to avoid referencing occupants of the gallery.

CONGRATULATING DAVID BLOM ON HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the career of Dave Blom as he retires after 17 years of service as president and CEO of OhioHealth this July.

While his leadership in the industry is unparalleled, as a veteran, I want to focus on what strikes me about Dave the most, and that is his commitment to improving access to healthcare for those who have served our Nation.

In 2014, the Department of Veterans Affairs was facing rising numbers nationally, and, unfortunately, many veterans were not receiving the good care that they deserved. As a result, the Congressional Commission on Care was formed, a 15-person task force that would make recommendations about how to best serve our Nation's veterans with healthcare.

I knew Dave's knowledge of healthcare and longstanding commitment to our Nation's heroes made him an outstanding candidate for that Commission, and I was proud to work with my colleagues, Representative BEATTY and Representative Tiberi, at the time, to secure him an appointment from Speaker Boehner.

In 2015, Dave Blom and the Commission got to work. After over 10 months

□ 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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