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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. DESAULNIER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 22, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK DESAULNIER 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 GARY LEE MITCHELL

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

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Gary Lee Mitchell, who passed away on March 13, 2019.

Gary was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, and was the son of the late Eldred Dale Mitchell and the late Mary Green McGath. Gary served in the United States Navy from 1965 to 1972 aboard

the USS *Nathaniel Green* submarine as a nuclear reactor operator.

Gary worked with Duke Energy for 43 years, where he was known as the resident expert in the field of nuclear energy and oversaw mentoring new interns coming into the field. Gary was awarded the prestigious J.B. Duke Award, which recognized his career knowledge of how to react to critical situations in saving a coworker from serious injury or death.

Gary lived a life of service to others and voluntarily joined many organizations, including the American Legion in 1972, where he served as district commander at the South Carolina Department American Legion. He served as zone commander and all vice commander levels. On June 2, at the 94th annual convention held in Greenville, South Carolina, Gary was elected department commander of the South Carolina American Legion Department.

Gary was married to Marlene A. Mitchell for over 50 years and had two daughters, Stephanie and Stacy, and his grandchildren, Victoria, Alexandria, and Mitchell Friel. In describing what type of husband Gary Mitchell was to his wife, Marlene, she stated that "he was her best friend and was the kindest person she ever knew."

The world is a better and kinder place because of the life of Gary Lee Mitchell, and he was a man who served his God, his family, and his country.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR CONGRESS TO ACT

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, a proud American, and I rise because I love my country.

Mr. Speaker, as I stand here today, I would call to the attention of those who are within the view of what we are doing the fact that we are now some 35

days since the Mueller report has been made public. It was released before that, but it has been made public some 35 days.

This means that, for 35 days now, this administration has been above the law if we allow the genesis of the start to be the date that the report was issued to the public, made public.

The Mueller report is clear: The President was not exonerated when it comes to obstruction of justice. The Mueller report, in essence, has given this Congress the opportunity to fulfill its constitutional responsibility. That responsibility is to take up the cause of justice.

The Framers of the Constitution intended for the Congress of the United States of America to be the place where the balance of power is maintained. We are the check on the President, such that we can maintain the balance of power. It was never intended that there be a concentration of power within the executive branch to the extent that it is being concentrated by virtue of the actions of this President.

Allow me to explain.

This President has refused to honor subpoenas.

He has encouraged witnesses not to appear.

He has encouraged persons to avoid the responsibility that they have as holders of public trust, the Secretary of the Treasury to produce documents.

He is engaging and is encouraging others to engage in a coverup. This is a coverup. We, the Members of this august body, have a duty and a responsibility not to allow this coverup to continue.

When we took our oath of office, we said, by and through that oath, that we would defend this Constitution. Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution accords us the power to check the President so as to maintain the balance of power. When we refuse to do so or if we decline to do so or if we just don't, for

□ 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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whatever reasons, do so, we are not living up to our responsibilities.

Article II, Section 4 deals with impeachment. It is time for this Congress to start the impeachment process. I have been very adamant about this. I stand where I have stood now for more than 2 years. I have been said to be the voice of impeachment in the Congress. I am not the voice. The Members of this body will be the voice of impeachment when and if we take it up, and I assure you we will. If nobody else does, I will.

But the point is, this is our moment. This is what we have been mandated to do, to bring impeachment before the House of Representatives, especially given that we said we would wait until the Mueller report was finished, and then we would act.

Well, time has lapsed, and this is the time for us to act. We are the Members who can make the difference. This is the Congress of the United States of America.

Let me add this. I know these are difficult times for a good many persons and there are those who question whether we should do this given what the Senate may do. Well, we do a lot of things knowing that the Senate will not act as we would have them act. We send bills to the Senate quite routinely knowing that the Senate will reject these bills.

But it is our responsibility to act, and we then allow the Senate to do its job. If the Senate chooses not to, that is on the Senate. The House will have performed its responsibility.

So let us not be guided by political expediency, the question of whether the Senate is going to act. Let us stand on the moral imperative that we have to act.

Some have said that the soul of the country is at risk. Well, the truth is this, before the soul of the country is lost, the soul of the House of Representatives will be lost if we do not act on this moral imperative.

This is what we must do to maintain the House of Representatives' integrity and its prowess as a coequal branch of the government, which some say has a little bit more authority than the executive by virtue of its having a check on the executive.

Mr. Speaker, each day that I come, I will show the amount of time that has lapsed during which this administration is engaged in a coverup and is above the law.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

RECOGNIZING THE NEW HOPE- SOLEBURY MIDDLE SCHOOL RO- BOTICS CLUB

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding

group of citizens in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who are actively engaged in academic achievement.

Last year, New Hope-Solebury Middle School established its robotics club, and it did not take long for that club to grow and find success. They quickly grew to 20 students strong, with 5 students recently awarded the Judges Award at the competitive VEX Robotics Competition.

The robotics club at New Hope-Solebury Middle School is looking to build off of its accomplishments. With the help of librarian Craig Smith and school board member Mark Cowell, members are looking to become more active in competitions to demonstrate their skills. Recently, the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club, of which Mark is a member, held a fundraiser to assist these kids in reaching their goals.

I would like to congratulate members of the New Hope-Solebury Middle School robotics club on their achievements. I would like to thank Mark and Craig and members of the Lambertville-New Hope Rotary Club for their vision.

RECOGNIZING WALTER WYDRO FOR HIS STEAD- FAST COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a citizen of Bucks County, Pennsylvania, for his steadfast commitment to community service.

Walter Wydro, a resident of Upper Makefield, has been a constant presence in local initiatives for 50 years. Walter has been a champion for land preservation and played a significant role in open space efforts in Upper Makefield Township.

Since 1972, Walter has served on the Upper Makefield Planning Commission. He was also a founding member of the Newtown Area Zoning Jointure, the first of its kind in the State of Pennsylvania.

In 2004, Walter was named Upper Makefield's Volunteer of the Year and, in 2005, he joined the Bucks County Planning Commission. His work has been so impactful and his reach and expertise so great that the Bucks County Commissioners declared May 7, 2019, Walter Wydro Day.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the privilege to represent such a thoughtful and compassionate constituent as Walter, and I thank Walter for his innumerable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING BEN HARDER FOR HIS STRENGTH AND PERSEVERANCE

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize an outstanding resident from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who is teaching us all about strength and perseverance.

Ben Harder, a resident of Levittown, recently participated in the Kiwanis-Herald Sesame Place Classic, which I was honored to attend. This was Ben's 21st consecutive year participating in the 5K race, an event cherished by our local community. His presence this

year was made remarkable, however, due to the fact that Ben is currently undergoing chemotherapy for pancreatic cancer.

Mr. Speaker, Ben is no stranger to athletic feats. While a student at The University of Southern Mississippi, he was also a top-ranked power lifter for his weight class.

I would like to honor Ben for his strength and his spirit in the face of adversity, and our entire community is praying for him as he undergoes treatment.

I would also like to extend our best wishes to Ben's family, including his siblings, Arthur, Chloe Belle, Rosen, and Eleanor.

RECOGNIZING THE COLOMBIA MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PRO- GRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the Martin Luther King, Jr. program in Colombia and to recognize the tremendous leadership of my friend and colleague from New York, Congressman GREG MEEKS.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. program is a modest project funded by the United States Agency for International Development. It provides scholarships to outstanding Afro-Colombian and indigenous students to learn English as a second language and receive leadership training. The program began in 2006 and has supported over 370 students.

While leading a bipartisan delegation to Colombia in April, Congressman MEEKS and I, along with five of our colleagues, had the opportunity to meet with young people participating in the program and hear firsthand the impacts this program has had on their community.

The students told us how their experience with the MLK program went far beyond just learning English. They have developed important leadership skills, which they have used to launch successful community improvement projects and to become role models in their neighborhoods.

They told us how the program fosters an environment in which the students learn from one another about how to make a positive difference in the lives of others.

I want to recognize my good friend and colleague, Congressman MEEKS, who led the effort to establish this program back in 2006. While in Colombia last month, Mr. MEEKS spoke passionately to the students about how they are the future of Colombia. Thanks in no small part to Mr. MEEKS' efforts, that future now looks very bright.

Congressman MEEKS' leadership has been essential, not only to the success of this program, but to supporting Colombia's democratic progress over the last two decades and strengthening the U.S.-Colombia partnership. His tireless dedication to the underserved communities has been critical, and I am proud to serve alongside him.