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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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