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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. PETERS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 4, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT H. PETERS 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.

HONORING USMC SERGEANT GERALD GWALTNEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant Gerald Gwaltney.

An Alexander County native, Sergeant Gwaltney was sent on four major landings in the Pacific during World War II, including Iwo Jima, where he witnessed the iconic American flag raising there.

In the line of duty, Sergeant Gwaltney sacrificed himself for his men, costing him the use of his right hand. Even after brushing with death and experiencing the horrors of combat, this selfless patriot said he would do it all over again.

This year, President Trump signed a law directing the Secretary of Defense to conduct a commemorative program for the 75th anniversary of World War II. It is important to take such opportunities like this week's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-day to highlight heroes like Sergeant Gwaltney and remember the brave Americans who fought and died for our country in World War II to preserve our freedom.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart, but I still love my country. I rise today, some 48 days now since the Mueller report was made public, some 48 days for all who have said that the President should be impeached and that he has broken the law, some 48 days now the President has been above the law—48 days.

But as we continue this journey, let us remember this: There are still children who have been separated from their parents. Let us please remember there is a new story today about this separation. Let us remember separation doesn't always mean that the child was separated from a mother or a father, but perhaps a grandparent or some other person who was a significant other in that person's life, somebody whom the child had some sense of belief in or belonging to.

And let us remember, please, that these children are among the least, the last, and the lost. These are not persons who were born into plenty—likely,

born into extreme poverty. These are not persons who were born in the land of liberty and justice for all. These are persons who are seeking liberty and justice. These are persons who are trying to flee harm's way. These are babies.

One can only imagine what grief a parent suffers knowing that the child has been removed from the custody of the parent and is not able to be reconnected.

Let us just imagine ourselves: What would we do if our child were taken from us as we were trying to journey toward freedom, if we were trying to escape harm's way, and when we finally get to a point where we think that the laws that are applicable would apply to us, our child was removed from us? What would we do?

This is the United States of America. These laws are in place. Those who bemoan the fact that people are coming and seeking asylum should remember that the law allows what they are doing. They are not breaking the law when they walk up to the border and say, "I am seeking asylum," when they give the pronouncement as to why and it is an appropriate pronouncement. That is the law.

And for our President to make this a big issue now, when he had control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency and never sought to change the law, one can believe that this is done with intentionality to make it an issue such that he can now claim someone else is responsible.

But the truth is we are all responsible. The truth is every one of us, myself included, we are all responsible for what is happening to these babies at the border. This President is willing to raid every coffer in the country to build a wall, but he is not willing to go into those coffers to make sure that children are treated fairly at the border.

I will close with this, my dear friends, my dear brothers and sisters,

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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