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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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all of whom I love. I close with this: If these babies and the babies that were seen on television this morning peering through some sort of small space were coming from the northern border—if these babies were coming from the northern borders, if these were babies coming from the northern border—would we have the same mindset? Would we allow this to continue with babies?

We are all responsible, and it is time for us to do something about this crisis at the border—and doing something is more than building a wall. A wall will not solve the poverty that they are living in in these other countries, won't solve the persecution that they have to endure. A wall is not a solution to a humanitarian crisis.

It is time for us to act on the humanitarian crisis at the border and for this President to lead the way on acting on the crisis at the border.

I love my country, and I beg that we would do something to end this crisis.

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

OPPOSING AMNESTY FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

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

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I find it ironic and hypocritical to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who speak from this august Chamber about the children and the families at the border when, today, we are going to vote on legislation that doesn't lift a finger to help those children and those families. It doesn't give a dime to our President and make the investment in infrastructure and healthcare and the things that this President has asked for repeatedly to help those children.

Instead, we hear demagoguery after demagoguery, and it is all talk; it is no action. And the action we need is not amnesty for people who are in this country illegally. What we need is real solutions to putting the American citizens first, their security and well-being first.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the legislation the Democrats are bringing to the floor today that will grant amnesty to millions of illegal immigrants, incentivizing even more people to come to this country illegally and which would do nothing to combat the national security and humanitarian crisis at the southern border that continues to grow worse every day.

The title of the bill is the "American Dream and Promise Act"—the "American Dream and Promise Act." This may be a dream for those who get placed in front of the line in front of millions of people who respect our immigration laws; it may be a dream for folks who get blanket immigration, a pass and citizenship to this great coun-

try, who have committed violent acts, criminal acts, folks who are convicted of DUIs, gang members; but it is not the dream of the American citizen. In fact, it is a nightmare what is happening on the border of this country.

And it is anything but a promise. It is a failure. It is a broken promise to do our first job, and that is to protect the American people, to provide for a common defense.

From denying we have a crisis in the first place, despite all the evidence to the contrary, to irrationally calling walls immoral, to repeatedly refusing to get the President the resources he needs to secure the border and safely detain the children and families who have made the dangerous trek, Democrats have been derelict in their constitutional duty to defend our borders and to stop this flow of illegal immigrants into our country.

We have a responsibility to safeguard our sovereignty as a nation and know who is coming into this country.

President Reagan said: "A nation that cannot control its borders is not a nation." Right now, we have zero operational control of our borders.

For the second straight month, Border Patrol agents apprehended more than 100,000 people trying to cross the border illegally, the highest number in 12 years. That is an average of 4,500 people a day. Homeland Security experts say we apprehend one out of three. So we are talking about thousands upon thousands of people that we don't even apprehend.

Just last week, Border Patrol agents in El Paso encountered a thousand people who just walked across the border. We couldn't do anything. We just let them go. We don't have the capacity. We don't have the resources.

Even The New York Times and President Obama's Homeland Secretary Jeh Johnson—no fans of this administration, for sure—have admitted that the system is being pushed past the breaking point and that having over 4,000 people cross every day constitutes a crisis.

The situation is so bad, the Border Patrol agents are being forced to release folks into the interior of our country because they have run out of room to house everybody.

And from the great State of Texas, my home State, where we are on the front lines against the fight against illegal immigration, I can tell you that our brave patrolmen and -women are simply outnumbered and overwhelmed.

And yet, in the midst of this unprecedented border crisis, what is the solution from the Democrats? A blanket amnesty to millions of people, to reward those who come over here illegally over the millions who have respected our laws and waited in line to become citizens, waiting for years to become citizens.

To grant amnesty to illegals while abandoning our own citizens and their security needs is disconnected from reality. It is disrespectful to our citizens, and it is downright un-American.

Mr. Speaker, I wish today's vote was an isolated incident. Unfortunately, it is the latest in a long litany of examples that exposes just how extreme the Democratic Party has become, whether it is advocating for open borders, allowing for abortion up to point of birth, or putting our country on the road to ruin with failed socialist policies, and it is just another example of Democrats showing they are more interested in opposing and obstructing a President than solving real problems.

HONORING HISPANIC SOLDIERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. BARRAGÁN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, this week I have the honor of travelling to the beaches of Normandy, France, along with a congressional delegation to commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day on the exact site where over 2,500 brave Americans were to, in the words of Abraham Lincoln, give their last full measure of devotion.

Several among those fallen were some of the nearly 500,000 Latino soldiers who served in World War II. By the end of that war, 17 Mexican Americans received the Congressional Medal of Honor, a source of great pride for the Latino community and a legacy of honor that has continued throughout modern history, which now counts 60 Medals of Honor awarded to soldiers of Hispanic heritage.

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Among the military units with Hispanic representation that participated in the D-Day invasion was the U.S. Army 79th Infantry Division, which landed at Utah Beach.

The D-Day forces included men like Nick Alvarez from California, who led a tank crew that broke through the German defenses that day, helping to put the Allies on the offensive and, ultimately, helped lead to the fall of Nazi Germany.

Those D-Day forces also included Private Andrew Ortega from Anaheim, California, who was one of the very first Americans to land on Omaha Beach as part of a team of engineers tasked with finding and neutralizing land mines ahead of the infantrymen taking part in the assault. Under relentless fire from German guns, Private Ortega searched for and defused land mines no bigger than eggs. His heroic efforts in the face of horrific danger no doubt saved countless American lives.

As we make ready to honor all the troops participating in the D-Day invasion, I would like to make special mention of Private Louis Martin, who was a resident of my home district in Wilmington, California, and who is pictured here in this photo provided by his family.

Private Martin was born in Deming, New Mexico, in 1914, and moved to Wilmington as a young adult. By the time