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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. COSTA).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 10, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIM COSTA 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.

RECOGNIZING PARK AND RECREATION MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize July as Park and Recreation Month. It is a fitting time to celebrate our Federal, State, and local parks and recreation systems because so many Americans will visit them this summer.

As a lifelong resident of rural Pennsylvania, an avid outdoorsman, and spending time in my career as a rec-

reational therapist, I strongly support our Nation's parks and recreation facilities.

Our parks provide countless recreational and educational opportunities for individuals and families to enjoy the outdoors. This month recognizes the important role these parks and public facilities play in the lives of Americans and the contributions of employees who work every day to maintain public parks across the Nation.

Our parks create opportunities for people to come together and experience a sense of community. They contribute to local economies by attracting businesses and jobs and increasing housing values.

In the United States, public park operations and capital spending generate nearly \$140 million in economic activity annually, and our National Park System receives an estimated 331 million recreation visits every year.

Ninety percent of people in the United States agree that public park recreation facilities and activities are important government services. This support spans across all people in the country regardless of race, income, or political affiliation. Nearly 75 percent of Americans agree it is important to ensure all members of their community have equitable access to public parks and recreation facilities.

The most economically sound areas are those with ample public park and recreation facilities and activities. A key factor in business expansion and location decisions is quality of life for employees, with a premium placed on adequate and accessible public parks and open space.

Mr. Speaker, public parks and recreational facilities foster a variety of activities that contribute to a healthier society. Americans living within a 10-minute walk of a park have higher levels of physical activity and lower rates of obesity. People who use

public parks and open spaces are three times more likely to achieve the recommended levels of physical activity than nonusers.

Recreational programs at public parks provide children with a safe place to play, access to healthy foods, opportunities to be physically active, and enrichment facilities that help prevent at-risk behavior such as drug use and gang involvement.

As we head further into summer, many Americans will visit public parks and recreation facilities to spend time outdoors with family, friends, and neighbors. We are blessed with beautiful outdoor facilities, and it is my hope that all Americans get out and enjoy the parks in their areas.

MINIMUM WAGE KILLS JOBS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, this morning, I rise to address a bill that my friends across the aisle, the Democrats, are going to bring to the floor next week raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour.

There was a score this week by the Congressional Budget Office that sheds truth and light on that proposal and what it does, and this government source has indicated it kills jobs. It harms Americans who are today struggling to make ends meet. The average family income will be reduced as a result of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated by the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, that 3.7 million jobs will be lost and that 42 percent of families who are currently at the minimum wage will see a net reduction in their family income, taking many of them, maybe for the first time, down into a poverty level of income.

There is a better way, Mr. Speaker. In the past, this body passed the Career and Technical Education Reauthorization bill, the Perkins Act. I was proud to work with Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY from Illinois on that bill as we led it. President Trump signed that into law last July.

□ 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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We are seeing this bill restore rungs on the ladder of opportunity. A significant number of jobs—6 million jobs—are open and available today at family-sustaining wages.

There is a pathway out of minimum wage. Minimum wage should be a starting point. To me, it is not where you start in life, but it is where you end up. We have provided the tools to provide individuals better access to the type of skills-based education to improve their lot in life and to achieve higher wages and greater opportunity, which is what this country promises.

We work hard; we take risk; and we better ourselves.

CALLING ON THE HOUSE TO IMPEACH THE PRESIDENT

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, still I rise. It has been some 84 days since the Mueller report was made public, some 84 days now that the Chief Executive Officer of this country has been above the law, some 84 days that we are aware of since the Mueller report. But in truth and in fact, before the Mueller report was presented, we knew that the Chief Executive Officer was behaving in a fashion that would indicate that he thought he was above the law, 84 days above the law, 84 days disrespecting the law.

He disrespects the Supreme Court of the United States of America. After it makes a ruling on the Census, he decides to just simply disregard that. "Maybe I will use an executive order."

The Supreme Court has already spoken. There was a time when the President of the United States of America would respect a decision of the Supreme Court.

He disrespects Congress, encourages witnesses not to testify, and refuses to surrender proper documents after they have been properly subpoenaed.

He has no respect for the Court and no respect for Congress.

Eighty-four days above the law since the Mueller report was presented—as heartbreaking as that is, I would also add many days since these babies at the border were separated from their parents.

What kind of country are we allowing ourselves to metamorphose into when we will allow this to go unchecked, when we will allow babies to be taken from their parents? What kind of a country are we metamorphosing into?

We have a responsibility, a duty, and an obligation to ensure that no one is above the law. Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution is the law. We in this House have the responsibility to enforce that law. If we do not enforce that law, there will be no guardrails. A ruthless, reckless, and lawless Chief Executive will continue to disobey the law, knowing that he can do what he will and what he may and that we will not challenge him.

But I do believe this: I believe that time is running out. I believe that there will be a vote to remove this Chief Executive. Let me correct that: a vote to impeach.

I don't know what the Senate will do, but I believe he will be impeached. I believe he will be impeached not because of but in spite of a good many people who hold public trust, I might add. In spite of them, he is going to be impeached. Because of some who hold public trust and in spite of some others who hold public trust, he will be impeached.

The tinnabulations of history, the bells of history, are sounding. History is starting to drive this, and history will drive some people. There are people who make history, and there are people whom history will make. History is going to make some people assume their responsibilities and take up the challenge that the Framers of the Constitution have afforded us.

I believe that this is going to take place in the near future. I believe that this House is going to do what it is supposed to do, that we are not going to place the blame on others and that we will take up our responsibilities.

I believe that when it happens, America is going to be on a proper course. We will set a proper course so that we will show that no one is above the law.

Let the Senate do what it may, but the House will have taken up its responsibilities and placed an indelible stain on the Chief Executive Officer for his attempts to remain above the law and to abuse these children with policies that would separate them from their parents.

No one is above the law, not even the Chief Executive Officer in the most powerful country in the world.

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

RECOGNIZING THE COLUMBUS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Columbus Police Department for its support of National Guard and military Reserve employees.

The Columbus Police Department recently received the Above and Beyond Award for its dedication to its officers who are also members of the National Guard and military Reserves. This award goes to organizations that go above and beyond when it comes to employees who also serve in our Nation's Armed Forces.

The Columbus Police Department currently has 11 officers who also serve in the National Guard or military Reserve roles. In fact, 33 percent of its employees are either currently serving or are veterans of our Armed Forces.

I thank the Columbus Police Department for caring for our veterans and

for those currently serving our country.

RECOGNIZING IU HEALTH BALL MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in celebrating 90 years of service to the Muncie community.

The hospital has grown with the city to offer the highest quality of care. Throughout the years, Ball Memorial Hospital has been with the city of Muncie through many ups and downs, including the Great Depression and the polio epidemic of the 1940s.

Ball Memorial Hospital merged with IU Health in 2010, a move that only expanded the hospital's reach throughout east central Indiana.

Congratulations to IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital on 90 years of success. I thank them for serving the city of Muncie and the State of Indiana.

RECOGNIZING ASAP OF BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Alliance for Substance Abuse Progress in Bartholomew County, a group that has been on the front lines of combating the opioid crisis.

The alliance, known as ASAP, partners with law enforcement, courts, counselors, health systems, and community leaders to address the opioid crisis through prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery.

I want to recognize its new executive director, Doug Leonard, who officially started this Monday. Doug is a former local and State healthcare leader, serving as the president of the Indiana Hospital Association from 2007 until 2017.

While we have much work to do, ASAP of Bartholomew County can be a model for other counties looking to combat this terrible scourge.

□ 1015

I rise today to reiterate my commitment to passing the USMCA, which will lead to stronger economic growth and rising wages for all Hoosiers and all Americans. The USMCA will generate tens of billions of dollars, and it will create over 175,000 new American jobs.

The USMCA will also rebalance trade to support American manufacturing, strengthen U.S. trade in agriculture, and support American small business. It increases market access for Hoosier and American dairy providers.

It is imperative that Congress act on behalf of American farmers, ranchers, businesses, and all workers.

WOMEN'S WORLD CUP AND EQUAL PAY

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the United States Women's National Soccer Team on their World Cup victory in France.

For weeks, America's women's soccer team has captivated the imagination