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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GOMEZ).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 15, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JIMMY GOMEZ 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 1:50 p.m. Each Member, other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip, shall be limited to 5 minutes.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS OF ELEANOR PATTERSON BARBER

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

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of a great public servant, a mother, a wife, a friend to many, and the longest serving employee of the Washington County North Carolina School System, Mrs. Eleanor Patterson Barber. Some refer to her as "Mother Barber."

Mrs. Barber, Mr. Speaker, the daughter of Charles Edgar Patterson, a West Virginia Pentecostal preacher, and Lucille Patterson, a Georgia native from the Southlands, was born in Indianapolis, Indiana, on November 13, 1933.

A graduate of the historic Crispus Attucks High School, Mrs. Barber trained as a concert pianist and graduated from Lain Business College in Indianapolis. She served in the Civil Air Patrol, where she met her husband, the Reverend William J. Barber I, a minister, educator, and activist with deep roots in eastern North Carolina.

With a strong passion and conviction for justice and equality, the Barber couple, in 1966, relocated to eastern North Carolina to play an essential role in the integration of the county schools. Though it had been 12 years since the Brown decision, many Southern schools remained fully separated by race.

While the decision to move southward from a northern metropolitan city meant that their only son at the time, William J. Barber, II, would enter kindergarten at a segregated school, they believed that this sacrifice would, nonetheless, serve the greater good for their family, Washington County, and the State.

Her little boy, William, some refer to him as Billy, is now internationally known as Bishop William J. Barber, II, who was the architect of the Moral Monday movement and is now the founder and leader of Repairers of the Breach, or the Poor People's National Campaign.

In 1966, Mother Barber began working as the office manager at the Washington County Union Elementary School, while her husband taught science at the school. In 1971, when Mrs. Barber began her duties at Plymouth High School, she made history as the first African American office manager at a desegregated school in that county.

Mrs. Barber's passion and conviction have led her to impact generations of students over her 53 years of service. She has served 11 principals, and in some cases, she has watched students and their parents and grandparents matriculate through the school. She also helped teach countless young people how to play the concert piano, often when they didn't have the resources to afford the lessons. She has led choirs and served as the baccalaureate musician for the high school for many, many years, and she continues.

In her more than half a century of service to North Carolina's public schools, I, today, applaud Mrs. Barber for her years of dedicated and committed service to our Nation's most precious resources: our children.

Mrs. Eleanor Barber is a history maker, barrier breaker, and a remarkable example of the transformative power of a willing spirit and a dedicated public servant.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the First District, including the people of Washington County and the town of Roper, where she resides, I express appreciation to Mrs. Eleanor Patterson Barber for 53 years of committed service to the Washington County, North Carolina, public schools.

Thank you to Mrs. Barber for your perseverance and your willingness to give and to go the extra mile to pour into the youth all that you had to offer.

Mrs. Barber, without exception, earned the right to be honored here today on the floor of the House of Representatives. It is my hope that God will continue to bless and keep Mrs. Barber and her family for years to come.

I will say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that Mrs. Barber has a wonderful family. She gave birth to two biological children. They were both boys. The first was Bishop William J. Barber, II.

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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