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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. PHILLIPS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 16, 2019.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEAN PHILLIPS 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.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SODDY-DAISY

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the great people of Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, as we all celebrate the 50th anniversary of this community.

Mr. Speaker, I am so privileged and honored to represent 11 wonderful east Tennessee counties in this great people's House. My largest county is Ham-

ilton County. Perhaps you have heard of a city there called Chattanooga. That is our largest city. But right up the road is a very special place: Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee.

Soddy-Daisy has a great history. It has been a city for 50 years. But long before that, it all started with the construction of Poe's Tavern in 1819, which Hasten Poe of Soddy-Daisy called home. In the years to follow, the tavern served as a hospital during the Civil War and was torn down later, but a replacement is there today.

Depending on whom you ask, you may get one of several stories about how Soddy-Daisy got its name. Some say it was an adaptation of an Indian name meaning "sipping place"; others will tell you it derived from the name of a trading post owned by William Sodder, nicknamed "Soddy."

As time went on after the Civil War, it was home to mostly Scots; then, later, Welshmen came, and they brought coal mining to the region. The industry grew and the Daisy Coal Company was founded by Thomas Parks, who named it after his daughter, Daisy. The coal company expanded, and the region became known as "Daisy."

Mr. Speaker, in 1969, America put a man on the Moon, and a little ball club I am very fond of in New York, the Mets, won the world series. I was 7 years old then, and I didn't know that somewhere in Hamilton County, Tennessee, the great people of Soddy and Daisy were coming together to put together a beautiful city.

About a week or two ago, I celebrated their 50th anniversary as a city. And today, joining us in this great people's House are the men and women who serve on that commission. These are people who volunteer. They serve without pay. These are truly great American citizens. I want to talk about them right now.

We have got Mayor Gene-o Shipley and his wife, DeDe; Vice Mayor Robert

Cothran and his wife, Wanda; Commissioner Jim Adams and his wife, Shirley; Commissioner Max Lowe and his wife, Teresa; and Commissioner Rick Nunley and his wife, Katherine.

I also want to recognize Soddy-Daisy City Manager Janice Cagle; and at that celebration, the very first mayor of Soddy-Daisy, Max Orr, was present, and he is still a prominent figure in that great community today.

I know in Soddy-Daisy and in Sale Creek and communities in Hamilton County today, right now, Mr. Speaker, schoolchildren are watching us in the public schools. I want to tell them that their parents, grandparents, and the founders of this great community have been great Americans.

Soddy-Daisy has a rich past. I have been with this wonderful community in times of triumph and in times of tragedy. I have been there when they had floods. Their community is a great community—good, good people, wonderful people.

Now, as bright as the past has been, I want to tell the students who are watching today that the future is going to be even brighter for Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee. This is a community that loves God, loves our country, and loves our veterans. It is a special place.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Soddy-Daisy and the great citizens there a very happy birthday and Godspeed.

HONORING GURU NANAK

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an important historical figure in the Sikh community on what will soon be the 550th anniversary of the Sikh religion.

Guru Nanak was the founder of Sikhism, the fifth largest religion in the world, but his story is largely unknown to the Western world.

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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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Guru Nanak was born in November of 1469 in present-day Pakistan. According to Sikh traditions, the birth and early years of his life were marked with many events that demonstrated that he had been marked by divine grace.

He traveled far and wide, teaching people the message of one universal creator and that God is good and that God is everywhere. Guru Nanak also preached the universal message of justice and equality for all women's empowerment, service to others, and a devotion to nature and the environment.

Every year, Sikh pilgrims travel to his birthplace to remember his life and his message of love, compassion, and kindness, these values that we hold true every day.

I know from personal experience in my interactions with the Sikh leaders across my district and throughout this country that these values are instilled in each and every one of us and them.

Unfortunately, one such Sikh leader tragically passed away a week ago, and her loss is heavily felt by so many members, not only throughout California, but in India.

HONORING JASBIR "GUDDI" SIDHU

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate a beloved member of the Sikh community in my home of Fresno, California: Ms. Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu.

Guddi lived an admirable life and made so many, countless contributions to our communities. For 25 years, she produced a weekly television show and was a founding member of KBIF 900, a local radio station.

Her weekend programming featured interviews with community members and cultural figures. She was a role model and a leader to all, especially young girls and women. It not only aired in Fresno, but also halfway around the world, in India. It was also streamed by thousands on social media.

Guddi was a member of numerous local organizations and worked hard to preserve the Punjabi culture and Sikh religion for children and families in her community and helped those assimilate who came from Punjab.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the service of Jasbir "Guddi" Sidhu, a beloved member of our community, who had a passion for people and made a difference.

SYRIA CRISIS

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the recent events transpiring in northern Syria.

Turkey's continuing actions against the Kurds in northern Syria is not only appalling, but it is unjustifiable, and it is not right.

The Kurds have courageously fought side by side with our troops and deserve better, losing over 10,000 of their soldiers in defeating ISIL as the caliphate, but yet ISIL could come back. They are also guarding thousands of ISIS prisoners.

The Kurds have been our partners. The United States must immediately

impose sanctions on Turkey for their irresponsible and outrageous behavior.

This White House's actions, I believe, have made the situation possible; and now Congress must act to confront this unfolding humanitarian disaster, which is also a threat to our national security and damaging to our international reputation.

I will be supporting bipartisan legislation to confront the administration and Turkey on this matter later this week. I support H.J. Res. 77, which expresses the Congress' opposition to the administration's abandonment of our Kurdish allies.

Though Turkey is a NATO ally, we cannot stand by and let this happen in the face of reckless and irresponsible behavior on Turkey's part. And this isn't the first time Turkey has acted in this way.

This action has become necessary because of the unilateral actions that the President took without consulting Congress or our European allies. It makes no sense.

It is critical that we maintain our friendships and our alliances. America needs to have our alliances. We need to have friends.

When there is no longer a priority for this administration to embark upon maintaining our relationships with our allies—our friends—we go down a perilous path, mark my words. The United States needs its friends, and actions like this undermine our global image and risk us being seen as an unreliable partner in international affairs. We don't want to be seen as an unreliable partner in international affairs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in calling for responsible leadership, on a bipartisan basis, on this issue.

RURAL BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT

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 discuss an issue that is incredibly important to me as a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee.

My vision for the future of rural America includes rebuilding the communities that provide much of our food, fiber, and energy, and to provide support for a robust rural economy. Of course, this is virtually impossible without reliable, high-speed, 5G broadband connectivity.

In the late 1800s, Thomas Edison created the first practical incandescent lightbulb. By 1925, half of all homes in the United States had electricity. Today, we take electricity for granted. We don't think twice when we flip a switch.

As we continue to experience today's modern technical revolution, it is my goal to see 5G broadband just as commonplace. Twenty-four million Ameri-

cans still do not have access to broadband, and the vast majority of these people live in rural areas.

A 2017 study by the United States Department of Agriculture discovered that 29 percent of American farmers did not have reliable internet access, despite the fact that agriculture is all about technology today. Without reliable broadband access, we are leaving money on the table, and the American economy is failing to meet its fullest potential.

Connectivity and competition go hand in hand, and we can continue to invest in rural communities with 5G. Agriculture, healthcare, energy, education, and so many other industries demand this level of service.

In 2018, we ushered in a new farm bill that underscored the importance of broadband in rural America. Under broadband guaranteed lending programs, larger rural communities are permitted to build infrastructure for telecommunication networks.

The farm bill also supports broadband development where it is most needed by prioritizing funds to rural communities that are at least 90 percent unserved.

We can also encourage innovation on this front through opportunity zones. Established by the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Mr. Speaker, opportunity zones incentivize long-term investments—private-sector investments—in rural, underserved, or economically distressed areas across the Nation through public-private partnerships.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, there are 300 opportunity zones—there are 18 congressional districts—and I am proud that 31 of these are in my district.

To tackle broadband development head-on, the FCC has introduced the idea of gigabit opportunity zones, and the proposal has a promising future ahead of it. Gigabit opportunity zones are designed specifically to address underserved areas by incentivizing State and local governments to foster connectivity, ultimately streamlining regulations, supporting job creators, and strengthening our neighborhoods.

Mr. Speaker, with continued investment in 5G broadband development, the future of rural America looks bright.

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LOW-INCOME SENIORS DRUG COVERAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Hampshire (Ms. KUSTER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4669, the Maximizing Drug Coverage for Low-Income Seniors Act.

This past week, I joined my colleagues, HALEY STEVENS, JAHANA HAYES, and TERRI SEWELL to introduce this commonsense legislation that will