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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,
October 21, 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.

CONSEQUENCES OF ABANDONING OUR KURDISH ALLIES

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

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in great sadness and profound concern over President Trump's inexcusable abandonment of our Kurdish allies in Syria who sacrificed more than 11,000 of their sons and daughters in our joint fight against ISIS.

The President's impulsive and abrupt decision not only betrays our allies, but it betrays our values. It imme-

diately compromises our national security, dramatically undermines American credibility, and will have negative strategic implications for generations to come.

It is not just me saying this. These are the words of Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL: "Withdrawing U.S. forces from Syria is a grave strategic mistake. It will leave the American people and homeland less safe, embolden our enemies, and weaken important alliances."

While we should all welcome the announced 5-day pause in the Turkish assault, we should not be celebrating. Turkey has not recognized the ceasefire but, rather, just a pause in fighting. Reports from the area indicate that Turkish-affiliated forces are still attacking, and the pause is scheduled to end tomorrow. We can likely expect the carnage to then resume with a new ferocity.

Regarding the deal with Turkey, The Wall Street Journal this morning notes: "Critics have said the agreement was a wholesale concession to Ankara, giving it control of an area in Syria it has coveted for years and freeing it from U.S. sanctions in return for pausing an offensive it had no international backing for. While President Trump hailed the pact as a diplomatic victory, U.S.-allied Kurds have likened it to a surrender on their part."

Unsurprisingly, our Kurdish allies have now aligned their forces with Assad's army. Assad has, thus, instantly made significant territorial gains in just a few days, effectively controlling lands that the U.S. and allied forces have spent years seeking to defend.

So, let's review.

In the weeks following the President's decision to walk away from our allies, Turkish forces and allied fighters, many of which are Islamic extremists, have crossed the border into Syria.

U.S. forces have abandoned forward operating bases and then sent U.S. planes to destroy those bases. But before those bases could be destroyed, celebrating Russian troops posted selfies in some of these former American strongholds.

Turkey is not just targeting Kurdish forces, they are attacking entire towns, and civilians are literally being murdered in the streets.

The expansion of control by Russian and Syrian forces is not just a win for those countries in Syria but also threatens our allies in the region—in particular, Israel.

Iran's sense of emboldenment will likely lead it to expand programs to deliver advanced weapons to Hezbollah, increasing the already significant threat to Israel—only now from Syria as well as Lebanon.

As already noted, Assad has consolidated his power over virtually all of Syria at no political or military cost.

Finally, many ISIS prisoners have escaped to join the fight, and thousands more are at risk of release, giving ISIS a greater ability to reorganize.

One more thing: Today, there are reports that President Erdogan now wants Turkey to acquire nuclear weapons. The last thing this region needs is a nuclear arms race.

Here is the bottom line. Last Thursday, the American Vice President and Secretary of State stood at a podium and announced the administration's effective capitulation and surrender. Turkey will complete its ethnic cleansing, and the U.S. will lift all sanctions.

Assad has full control in Syria, under the tutelage of his Russian and Iranian masters.

Turkey, Syria, Russia, and Iran are the winners. The Kurds are, once more, on the losing end.

The United States, under President Trump, is sadly diminished—so much so that Syrians are throwing rotten food at retreating U.S. troops.

□ 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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The administration's policies are tragic for reasons beyond the human suffering it has unleashed. They weaken our national security, undermine our fight against terrorism, and diminish American credibility.

We are so much better than this.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to speak out and condemn the actions of this administration. Congress must pass sanctions on Turkey and seek to compel Erdogan to stop Turkey's assault on the Kurds. We must compel this administration to live up to our Nation's values, to stand by our allies, and to confront our enemies.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN McARTHUR

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great constituent and also a great friend. His name is John McArthur. He passed away recently at the age of 96.

John was just 21 years old in 1944 when his father died, tragically, of a heart attack, meaning John was tasked to take over the family farming and ranching business. In fact, if the name "McArthur" sounds familiar to those of us from northern California, that is because his family founded the town of McArthur, California, where he lived much of his life.

In the years since, John has helped establish many important staples of his community, including the McArthur Volunteer Fire Department, the McArthur Firemen's Carnival, the Fall River-Big Valley Cattlemen's Association, and the Junior Livestock Sale. He and Shirley were very involved in the fair each year and the events that went on there.

John actually introduced new crops to the Fall River Valley by providing the first 10 acres for growing strawberries in McArthur. Lassen Canyon Nursery, among others, remains a thriving business operation more than 60 years later.

John and his business partners also tried their hand at planting and growing potatoes. I am a rice grower in real life, so we had a little bit of a rivalry for the starches that go on your plate and a little fun with that.

While they were successful, they ran into trouble when it actually came to harvesting the crop. Through that failed endeavor, he established that the land was right for growing potatoes and was soon able to lease it to successful potato growers for many years thereafter.

On a personal level, John and his wife, Shirley, were known for their welcoming nature. Their home was always open, hosting friends and neighbors for cocktail hours or just hanging out at the McArthur residence overlooking the valley. They have an amaz-

ing view off their back deck, looking over the valley there.

The events became so frequent that John and Shirley thought that maybe it would be better to cut down on the Old Crow a little bit and slip some iced tea in there. But John and Shirley, they are those type of people. People just wanted to be around them.

On my trips up to the McArthur area, whether it was for the fair or just passing through, I frequently liked to stop in and visit with them. John always had a smile, a laugh, a good story, and a very welcoming nature about him. It is one of the fortunate parts of being able to serve in an elected capacity these years I have at the State level and now here in the Congress.

His life spanned nearly a century. He outlived most of his childhood friends, but his personality, coupled with his generosity, kindness, and involvement in his community, ensured that he had no shortage of new friends.

During his time on this Earth, he has been a witness to a lot of change. He watched as California's population grew from 4 million to over 40 million today. He was always fighting for agriculture, adding to our water supply, and sticking up for rural values.

Ask anyone in McArthur, John was clearly a pillar of the community that bears his last name. He helped to establish it early on and continued to help grow it through the years until his last days.

As a friend, I will miss him. I know he is sorely missed up there. Blessings to Shirley and blessings to all of the McArthur family in that great community, one that I am always proud to represent and very happy when I get a chance to visit and hang out with folks.

Indeed, he is a pillar, and they don't make them like John McArthur anymore. Let's hope his legacy helps spawn new generations of people with that same attitude, that same strength, that same can-do that has made America strong, made his community strong, and made the fiber of northern California the great place it is.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer:

Lord, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

At the beginning of a new workweek, we ask Your blessing on the Members of this people's House.

May they be led by Your spirit in the discernment they undertake amid the pressures of contentious deliberations.

All through the week, may they do their best to find solutions to pressing issues facing our Nation. Please hasten the day when justice and love shall dwell in the hearts of all peoples and rule the affairs of the nations of Earth.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COHEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

EMOLUMENTS CLAUSE IS NOT PHONY

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, today, President Trump held a press conference and referred to the Emoluments Clause in the Constitution as the "phony Emoluments Clause."

I take an oath to support the Constitution, as does he, as do all 435 of us. I am also the chairman of the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee.

I take umbrage at his remarks. The Emoluments Clause was first put in the Articles of Confederation, and before that, 100 years earlier, the Dutch put it in their documents to protect from foreign influence.

It was said at the Constitutional Convention that a violation of the Emoluments Clause could result in impeachment.

No wonder President Trump thinks it is phony.

There is nothing phony about the Emoluments Clause, the impeachment clause, Article I, Congress' powers, or separation of the three branches of government.

Madam Speaker, I respect the Constitution, and I wish the President would as well.

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