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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. CUELLAR).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 11, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable HENRY CUELLAR 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 7, 2020, 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, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

REMEMBERING AND CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF H.L. RICHARDSON OF CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, lost amidst the tumult of the last couple of weeks was the quiet passing of an outspoken leader of California, H.L. "Bill" Richardson. H.L., as he was known to his friends, arrived in the California State Senate with the freshman class of 1966, part of the Reagan landslide that year.

For every one of the 22 years he served in the Senate, H.L. was a force to be reckoned with. He served for many years in the Republican leadership, but he was never ever a political insider. His enormous influence inside the senate stemmed from the fact that he never joined that club; he never lost sight of the people who elected him. And he not only worked tirelessly to serve them inside the capitol, he worked even harder to organize, inform, and mobilize them outside the capitol.

He founded a multitude of advocacy groups to empower the millions of Californians who believed in individual liberty and economic freedom. He started the Free Market Political Action Committee to support free market principles and the candidates who embraced them, and it became the inspiration and prototype of groups like the Club for Growth and Americans for Prosperity and FreedomWorks today.

In the 1970's, when Jerry Brown first came to power and appointed radical leftists to the California courts, H.L. founded the Law and Order Campaign Committee, which became the driving force between the historic recall of Chief Justice Rose Bird and two of her associates on the California Supreme Court. That organization went on for many years to restore common sense to the California courts and criminal justice system, including pressing the legislature to restore the death penalty over Jerry Brown's veto.

His passion for the Second Amendment was his most defining cause. He founded Gun Owners of California to fight the growing movement in California to disarm law-abiding citizens, and its success not only beat back Proposition 15, a 1982 initiative to ban handguns in California, it generated so many new Second Amendment voters in that election to put George Deukmejian over the top by a tiny margin of victory over Los Angeles

Mayor Tom Bradley in that Governor's race that year. Gun Owners of California continues its good work to this day, as does its spin-off, Gun Owners of America.

H.L. had a wicked sense of humor, and it was keenest when bursting bubbles of political pomposity. One of his half dozen published books, still required reading in some college classes, is titled, "What Makes You Think We Read the Bills?" His book, "Confrontational Politics," offers a civilized, but no less resolute, conservative response to Saul Alinsky's "Rules for Radicals."

California, once called "The Golden State," is today drawing more and more attention as a slow-moving train wreck. The radical left has now dominated the State's institutions for more than 20 years, and California is showing all of the political, social, and economic pathologies that accompany leftist governance: failing schools; rising crime; chronic traffic congestion; skyrocketing costs of housing, energy, and water; rampant homelessness; oppressive regulations; the highest effective poverty rate in the Nation; and a population now fleeing to other States.

Senator H.L. Richardson held back that tide for nearly 30 years. He was a mighty seawall that protected California from the left, giving one final generation of Californians the joy of living in the most prosperous and beautiful State in the Nation.

But, as age took its toll, his influence waned, the left steadily advanced, and none of us whom he inspired to follow him has been able to stop it.

On January 13, H.L. Richardson passed away at the age of 92, and with him passed the golden California of freedom, opportunity, and prosperity that he fought so hard, so long, and so effectively to preserve. Perhaps the day will come when California will see a rebirth of freedom, and on that day, H.L.'s wisdom, courage, and leadership

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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