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No. 41

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

March 2, 2020.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ED CASE 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 1:50 p.m.

PROMOTING PUERTO RICO'S STATEHOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) for 5 minutes.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, on this date in 1917, Puerto Ricans became American citizens. Nineteen years after coming under the American flag, the Jones-Shafroth Act established that residents of Puerto Rico at the time, and their descendants, would be citizens of the United States.

This citizenship has provided us great opportunities for security and

progress. As such, we have become an integral part of the national experience, contributing in numerous fields of education, politics, law, science, art, and business; and we have defended this Nation side-by-side with our fellow citizens from other States.

We value our American citizenship so much that we included in our local constitution that one of our defining values is:

Our Citizenship of the United States and the aspiration to continue enriching our democratic heritage individually and collectively in the enjoyment of its rights and prerogatives.

In votes throughout the years, overwhelming majorities of Puerto Ricans have affirmed the intention to continue being U.S. citizens.

Yet, we have been denied that aspiration, denied that enrichment of values of American citizenship.

In 1898, when the U.S. Forces first landed in Puerto Rico, General Miles issued a proclamation promising: "We have come to . . . bring you protection . . . to promote your prosperity and bestow upon you the immunities and blessings of the . . . institutions of our government."

But instead, what happened was that almost right after achieving citizenship, a Supreme Court decision, *Balzac v. Porto Rico*, ruled that as residents in an unincorporated territory, we will only have partially those rights. That, contrary to what had been the case of every other territory before, achieving American citizenship did not mean necessarily a road to full equality as a State.

Since then, our enjoyment of rights shared by our fellow Americans in the States has been only in a limited manner, as the Congress and the courts see fit to grant them. The promise remains unfulfilled.

Unfulfilled, in spite of how 220,000 Puerto Ricans have worn this country's uniform and fought and bled for our

Nation under the orders of a Commander in Chief for whom they cannot vote.

Unfulfilled, when those living in Puerto Rico do not have full and equal representation in this Congress that decides how they will be ruled, what policies will be applied. As a Representative of almost 3.2 million American citizens, I am not allowed to vote on the passage of legislation that governs their daily lives.

This allows Puerto Rico to be treated unequally under Federal laws, regulations, and programs involving funding, levels of service, statistics, even being treated as if we were foreign for some purposes.

But we are Americans. We are born as U.S. citizens, in soil under the American flag, and the largest number of citizens who are disenfranchised.

That is why I continue to promote Puerto Rico's statehood. Our people have already decisively voted that the status quo is not acceptable and chosen their change. We deserve, we have earned full exercise of the dignity, rights, and privileges of our American citizenship, including full representation and participation in the political process which governs our lives, which is only possible with statehood.

Our American citizenship has represented 103 years of opportunities, but making the most of those opportunities can only happen in full equality. It is our right as citizens, and we have waited long enough.

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 5 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 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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H1425

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EVANS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Merciful God of the universe, we give You thanks for giving us another day. You know the Members of this assembly through and through. You know each personally. You know how they all relate to one another. You know them, as the American people do, as the 116th Congress of the United States.

Lord, help them to know You. Allow them to come to know You even as they are known by You. As ultimate truth, enter in and make them suitable for Your dwelling within, so that their constituents might place trust in them as their representatives.

May their service continue faithfully, for they were selected; they were elected by their voters back home, and called by You to selfless service.

Bless them and us all this day, and may all that is done 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 his approval thereof.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. ROSE of New York 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.

CONGRATULATING IRISH DIASPORA CENTER

(Ms. SCANLON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Irish Diaspora Center on opening its new office in my district.

I had the opportunity to join supporters of the center this weekend at its new cultural hub in Havertown, where I had the pleasure of sharing food and swapping stories with fellow Irish Americans.

For decades, this organization has supported and celebrated the vibrant Irish community in the Philadelphia

region with passport and citizenship services, senior outreach, youth programs, genealogy services, and educational and cultural events.

People of Irish descent have historically formed the largest ethnic group in my district, and to this day, we proudly continue to welcome new Irish American citizens. With almost a quarter of the population claiming Irish heritage, Delaware County is even sometimes referred to as the 33rd county of Ireland.

I look forward to supporting and celebrating our Irish neighbors both at home and abroad as I work with Chairman NEAL and the Friends of Ireland Caucus to protect the integrity of the Good Friday Agreement and maintain peace and prosperity in Ireland.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SALLY KABEL

(Mr. ROSE of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sally Kabel, a young girl from Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, who, despite battling leukemia for most of her life, did so bravely and with a love of life that earned her the nickname "Sweet Sally Sunshine."

Sally was adored, not just by her family, but by the entire Bay Ridge community, which rallied behind her. Everyone came together to support her family, whether it was bringing meals, raising money, or just giving them hugs on the street.

With that support, Sally was able to beat cancer, but the treatments so weakened her body that she passed away in September 2018, just a week after her sixth birthday.

Although her time with us was far too short, she filled those 6 years with a lifetime of joy.

Now, her parents, Matthew and Nicole, are helping other families undergoing the same struggle. They are advocating for childhood cancer awareness, with the hope that more research will lead to more humane and effective treatments for children.

Sally was truly the peacemaker of Bay Ridge, bringing out the best in all of us.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring her memory.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 2, 2020.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 2, 2020, at 10:36 a.m.:

That the Senate agreed to Relative to the death of Katherine Coleman Goble Johnson S. Res. 519.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 6 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1659

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CLEAVER) at 4 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

IMPROVING FHA SUPPORT FOR SMALL DOLLAR MORTGAGES ACT OF 2020

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5931) to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5931

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Improving FHA Support for Small Dollar Mortgages Act of 2020".

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF FHA SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGE PRACTICES.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) affordable homeownership opportunities are being hindered due to the lack of financing available for home purchases under \$70,000;

(2) according to the Urban Institute, small-dollar mortgage loan applications in 2017 were denied by lenders at double the rate of denial for large mortgage loans, and this difference in denial rates cannot be fully explained by differences in the applicants' credit profiles;

(3) according to data compiled by Attom Data solutions, small-dollar mortgage originations have decreased 38 percent since 2009,