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No. 135

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 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,
July 30, 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 9:50 a.m.

THANKING DEB DETMERS FANSLER, STEVE TOMASZEWSKI, AND RODNEY DAVIS FOR THEIR SERVICE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, Deb Detmers Fansler, Steve Tomaszewski, and RODNEY DAVIS were all with me politically and governmentally for 24 years. It is now my time to thank them.

All three have been great public servants. All three are political addicts.

Deb is another Western Illinois grad with a political science degree. A farm girl from Petersburg, she rapidly moved up in Illinois Republican circles. After I got elected in 1996, I asked her to run my district office.

In the Army, the commander is responsible for all their unit does or fails to do. This was Deb's job: running the district office. I have represented the 20th Congressional District, the 19th Congressional District, and the 15th Congressional District. In total, I have represented 52 of the State's 102 counties.

I have had district offices in Collinsville, Maryville, Springfield, Danville, Effingham, Centralia, Olney, and Harrisburg. Deb was responsible for all of them.

District offices permit drop-by access to constituents. For me, the district staff also handles all the casework. They are the jumping-off sites for congressional stops throughout the year. I will cover the incredible success story of my caseworkers in the future. Someone has to lead, encourage, and support the caseworkers, and Deb has done that.

Deb also has had the difficult task of organizing my schedule back in the district. Getting from point A to point B on time is difficult. Getting from A to B to C to D to E in the same day and on time is nearly impossible, but we did it almost always. We shocked people with our punctuality and sometimes even arriving early.

Deb was also my mother, confessor and counselor. No one knows the playing field better than Deb, and she quickly and briefly and succinctly got me up to speed. She knows everything from the courthouse to the statehouse. She was given the tough individual cases to handle. You really didn't want to tangle with her.

Steve worked on my 1996 campaign and was my press secretary and then joined as my congressional press secretary.

Steve graduated from the University of Illinois, majoring in journalism. His parents owned and operated the local Nashville, Illinois, newspaper.

Steve was the perfect guy in the early days because, at that time in rural America, local print was still king. Steve understood that. Steve helped us adjust to the changing media dynamics. As local media started to decline, the St. Louis media became more important.

With the advent of social media, the turnaround time had to be instantaneous if you were going to respond at all. I believe much of my early reelection success was the extra tender loving care that Steve provided to the media outlets, both big and small. Steve then moved to the economic development role once RODNEY left.

As my districts became larger, traveling with me consumed a lot of time. Deb's planning made this travel efficient but still long. I was only comfortable traveling with Deb and Steve. I trusted them to get me where I needed to go and keep me on time.

These long car rides allowed me to talk to them about everything. They would hear me on phone calls, and I could debrief them on what was on my mind. They could also use the time to see what was on my mind. Being captured in the car, they had to listen to my ranting and raving.

My drive-through meal is a McDonald's number 1. They always had Diet Cokes and chocolates strategically placed in the car for when we did not have time for lunch, or I needed chocolate for my mental health.

One day, RODNEY will finish his own story, so I will not end it here. A Taylorville boy, RODNEY was my Christian County coordinator in 1992. We were both candidates in 1996. I won, and RODNEY lost his race for State representative.

He joined our team as our economic development coordinator. He rode that

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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success into a successful run for Congress. I am extremely proud of him.

Deb, Steve, and RODNEY gave their blood, sweat, and tears to me for 24 years. Some say that they still do. I want to thank them here today.

GET SERIOUS ABOUT FUNDING STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, one of the most dynamic and striking figures in American history was General George Patton. He was famous for saying: Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

Mr. Speaker, those words were given at a time of world crisis when he was leading the Third Army through France and Germany and still ring true today. We are in a world crisis.

This morning, the government released its GDP numbers, and it showed that, in the second quarter, the U.S. economy shrunk by 10 percent. That is the largest number since the government started recording GDP numbers since 1947. Annualized, that is a 33 percent hit to the economy.

What is even more, I think, concerning, is that the new numbers in terms of new first-time unemployment claims this morning grew again this past week to 1.43 million claims.

Yesterday, the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Jerome Powell, foot-stomped the fact that not just the numbers from last quarter are of concern, but, again, looking out in the future, the Federal Reserve sees trouble ahead. The amount of credit card activity is dropping, and again, as I said, new first-time claims are growing.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Powell, back in May, warned us that the CARES Act was not going to be enough. This economy needed more fiscal stimulus, and the House did show leadership because we passed the HEROES Act, which was a package of fiscal measures whose cornerstone was extending unemployment compensation and State and local assistance, again, following the lead of the Federal Reserve Board Chairman, who said that those are the most efficient ways to make sure that this economy does not falter.

Well, here we are today, finally, after the Senate responded with sort of a package, which, again, is completely missing any relief for State and local government and which has this convoluted unemployment extension, which Secretary Scalia, President Trump's own Secretary of Labor, said would take 8 weeks for State government departments of labor to implement.

It is totally inadequate, totally insufficient to deal with the magnitude of the challenge. Again, when we look at State and local assistance, there is not a Member in this body who does not have a board of education, a local council, or a finance board that is

struggling with making sure that public safety, public education, and public works are going to continue because revenue is cratering just the way the government showed this morning that the economy is cratering.

We have this debate about defunding the police. Not voting for the HEROES Act was, de facto, defunding the police. How are local governments, which primarily fund police departments, going to have the resources in this economy to make sure that people's public safety ranks are, in fact, protected?

Mr. Speaker, MCCONNELL's plan, which he released earlier in week, his own people called it a mess, a mistake—TED CRUZ. The President said it is semi-irrelevant.

It is time to wake up and get serious. The blueprint is there with the HEROES Act, in terms of making sure that we heed the warnings of President Trump's own economic advisers—Chairman Powell—and look at these numbers this morning: historic, jaw-dropping.

We need to act. It is time to listen to General Patton: Lead, follow, or get out of the way.

RESILIENCY OF FLORIDIANS

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

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the resiliency of the people of my home State of Florida.

Floridians have long been recognized for their ability to persevere amidst crisis and hardships. From hurricanes to flash floods, from war efforts to pandemics, our homestead is the most resilient place in the world, but it is the people who make it truly special.

During these difficult days, I have traveled throughout our district, meeting unsung heroes in our communities. From first responders and medical personnel risking their lives and health to small business owners adjusting to continue serving their community, the dedication and passion for others and for our community is truly inspiring.

It is during trying times that we truly get to know who we are, what we are made of. And I can tell you this: The good people of Florida 15 stand strong.

Whether you live or work in Hillsborough, Polk, or Lake Counties, you know how special our district and Main Streets truly are. So today, I thought I would take just a moment to say thank you to all those who make Florida 15 what we call it, our home.

HONORING LAKELAND CITY MANAGER TONY DELGADO

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Tony Delgado for his 23 years of service to the city of Lakeland, Florida.

Mr. Delgado began his service to city residents in 1997 as a facilities assistant director and, through hard work and dedication, quickly climbed the

ranks to become Lakeland's city manager, known as someone who is approachable and always accessible to his colleagues, his staff, and the city's residents.

Mr. Delgado leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments, an impact that won't soon be forgotten. Mr. Delgado has always been known as someone who builds bridges and brings people together. In my time of knowing him and his team, they have been nothing but helpful and professional, exuding the values of our district.

A loving and devoted husband to his wife, Robin, I want to wish them both the very, very best in the next chapter of their lives.

Tony, all the best to you. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your hard work and your dedication. Lakeland is a better city, a better community, because of your selfless service.

SUPPORTING BORDER SECURITY

Mr. SPANO. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to once again express my full support of President Trump's efforts to secure our borders, restore law and order, and complete the wall on our southwestern border.

Since I joined Congress, time and time again, Democrats in this Chamber and their allies have sought to stop the President from securing our borders and protecting the American people.

Even this week, Democratic leadership has continued this attack on the President and on the American people. In multiple portions of the bills meant to fund the government next year, Democrats have not only prohibited funds from being used to build the wall, but they have also sought to rescind funds already allocated for border security by President Trump.

I have traveled to the border myself, and I will tell you this: Walls work. And the Border Patrol officers I spoke with when I was there agree: Walls work.

According to Customs and Border Protection, during the first 6 months of 2020 this year, 180,000 people were apprehended or deemed inadmissible. In 2019, last year, during the same period, this number was almost 600,000. That is a reduction of 416,000 people, or a whopping 70 percent.

A more secure border means safer communities across America, and as of July 27, 256 miles of the border wall system has been completed.

As our Nation experiences social unrest from coast to coast, it is critical that we restore law and order, to include our borders. President Trump has pledged to continue to do just that, and I am proud to stand with him in this effort.

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REMEMBERING CHAUNCEY LEE VEATCH III

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