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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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