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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. McCLINTOCK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 22, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM McCLINTOCK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2013, 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 each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

SERGEANT DWAYNE POLK, HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS, LAWMAN

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

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, peace officers are the ones who diligently protect and serve the people. They are the first to respond to the call for help in time of trouble.

They go after the bad guys and provide us safe communities to live in. Some take extra jobs to make ends meet. They wear the badge of commitment over their heart. Sheriffs departments in Texas wear a star over their heart.

Today, peace officers in Houston, Texas, have placed a black band across their badges in honor of one of the fallen among their number. Sergeant Dwayne Polk, 47, of the Harris County Sheriff's Department, was killed about 3 a.m. Sunday morning. He was headed home in his uniform after working a contract assignment.

Sergeant Polk grew up in Houston, Texas, with his three sisters and his two brothers. His mother always encouraged him and the other kids to read the Bible.

He had worked for the sheriff for 16 years. Sheriff Adrian Garcia said:

It was tough talking to his son, but he will have many big brothers in the sheriff's department.

As Sergeant Polk was driving home that Sunday morning, his pickup truck was struck by Andres Munos-Munos, who ran a red light, never slowed down, and crashed into Polk. Polk was killed. Munos-Munos was drunk and had minor injuries.

Munos-Munos was charged with intoxication, manslaughter, and is in jail. He had been convicted last year for drunk driving and unlawfully carrying a pistol. He went to jail for 30 days for that offense. News reports also say Munos-Munos was in the country illegally.

Last weekend, while Polk was being killed in Texas, America's families of peace officers killed in the line of duty last year were here in D.C. Their fallen were honored by thousands of other officers from America on the west side of this Capitol.

Next year, about this time, Sergeant Dwayne Polk, of Harris County, Texas, and the sheriff's department will be remembered here as his name is read from the rollcall of the dead.

Citizens should appreciate the service of officers like Sergeant Polk. They do the work most of us would never do. They go into the worst places of our cities to root out evil that lives among

us. They sacrifice for us. The least we can do is appreciate them for wearing the star or the badge over their heart, protecting the rest of us.

They are the only thing that stands between us and the lawless. They are among the best we have. So we mourn the loss of Sergeant Polk, while thanking the good Lord such men as him ever lived.

And that's just the way it is.

THE EFFECTS OF SEQUESTRATION

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as the sequester's effects continue to place our economy and national security at risk, the news that 650,000 civilian defense workers will be forced to take unpaid leave ought to alarm all Americans who are concerned about our military readiness and national security. These furloughs will affect thousands who live in my district and thousands who live in the districts of every Member here.

After Congress voted earlier this month to end furloughs for air traffic controllers that had caused flight delays, one would have expected there to be a unanimous outcry for the rest of the sequester to be replaced.

The best way to do that, of course, Mr. Speaker, is with a big and balanced agreement, but, instead, Republicans in this House don't seem interested.

It's not just Democrats who are taken aback by their silence. Republican Senator and former Presidential nominee of the Republican Party, JOHN McCAIN, said on May 14, just a few days ago, about these furloughs for civilian defense employees:

Nobody seems to care. It's amazing. It's one of the most amazing things I've seen in the years I've been in the Senate.

So said JOHN McCAIN.

□ 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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