United States of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162 WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2016 No. 142

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 20, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, 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, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SUMNER W. MEAD

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

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Sumner Wright Mead of Kenilworth, Illinois, who, unfortunately, passed away on September 6 at the age of 92. I will always remember Mr. Mead as a most colorful character who never hesitated to let you know how he felt.

For Mr. Mead, his family always came first. He was a beloved husband to Nancy; a father to Sumner, Laura, and Melinda; and a grandfather to Elisabeth, Sumner, Katie, Grace, Brooke, Price, Steele, Will, Paige, and Tyler.

Mr. Mead was known for greeting everyone with his welcoming smile. When he wasn't relaxing in Martha's Vineyard or Florida, you could catch him with his family volunteering at the Kenilworth Union Church or sailing on Lake Michigan.

Mr. Mead also served our country during World War II. His service to our Nation, I believe, exemplifies how he lived his life, putting others ahead of himself on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, I will forever remember Mr. Mead for his integrity, his loyalty, and most importantly, his friendship. He will be dearly missed.

HONORING THE U.S. NAVY

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the United States Navy, which is celebrating its 241st birthday this year.

Since October 13, 1775, the Navy has tirelessly protected our shores and our seas. The Navy will always hold a special place in my heart as, 51 years ago, Lieutenant Commander Robert Shumaker was shot down over Vietnam. I know him as my Uncle Bob. He became the second naval aviator captured during the Vietnam war. For the next 8 years and one day, he was held as a POW, much of that time in what was the Hoa Lo prison, which we know as the Hanoi Hilton.

To me, his story is a reminder of the darkness and cruelty of war, but much more importantly, a reminder of faith and strength of the Navy brotherhood and the honor of serving our country that nobody could take away from him or his fellow sailors.

I am also proud to recognize the Great Lakes Naval Station located in Illinois' 10th Congressional District. Every sailor who serves our country in the Navy has, at one time or another, traveled through the Great Lakes. Since World War I, Great Lakes Naval Station has trained more than 2 million sailors.

I offer my most sincere thanks to all the men and women who have continued to make the sacrifices to protect our rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Feeding America and to recognize nationwide Hunger Action Month.

Everyone knows that feeling of an empty stomach, but for 48 million people in the United States, including 15 million children, that feeling is a daily reality. Without nutrition, people—and especially children—don't have the energy to learn, grow, and achieve success.

The Feeding America network is the Nation's largest domestic hunger relief organization and is headquartered in my home State of Illinois. Their network includes more than 200 food banks that provide 4 billion meals to feed virtually every community in the United States through food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens. This September is a time to advocate, raise awareness, and take action to eliminate hunger in our communities.

Over the past year, I have had the honor to work with numerous local organizations fighting hunger, including the Northern Illinois Food Bank and the Greater Chicago Food Depository. There are also tons of local park districts in the 10th District that help provide food and support before and after school, as well as during the summer months, such as the Waukegan Park District summer feeding program.

Moving forward, I remain committed to working with these groups to fight hunger in the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, and I hope my colleagues will use this month to find organizations in their districts that are doing similar lifesaving work.

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NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs annually from September 15 to October 15. During this month, we celebrate the culture and heritage of Hispanic Americans and their many historic contributions to our Nation.

In the 10th Congressional District of Illinois, we are fortunate to have many community and business leaders with Hispanic roots. Take, for example, Luis Fuentes, a community leader who helps families in Mundelein, and Esteban Montes de Oca, the owner of multiple bakeries in my district.

Mr. Speaker, I also had the amazing opportunity not long ago to bring Erika Martinez, a DREAMer from Round Lake, to the State of the Union Address. Mr. Speaker, until we pass immigration reform, families like Erika's are forced to continue to live in fear of being torn apart. We need to act now.

So, this month, please join me in recognizing the important contributions that Hispanic Americans have made to our country, and let's redouble our efforts to uphold our long and proud history as a nation of immigrants.

OVERTIME RULE WILL STIFLE WORKPLACE FLEXIBILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in May, the Department of Labor released its final overtime rule, which is another egregious example of the burdensome regulations that continue to hamper our economic recovery and hold North Carolina families back.

By stifling workplace flexibility, threatening upward mobility, and burdening small businesses, unelected Washington bureaucrats are harming the employees they claim they want to help.

The Congressional Review Act of 1996 established a process through which Congress can overturn regulations issued by Federal agencies, and I have introduced a joint resolution of disapproval to block this controversial rule.

Our Nation's overtime rules need to be modernized, but the Department of Labor's extreme and partisan approach will lead to damaging consequences that the American people simply cannot afford. I will continue to fight for a more balanced and responsible approach to updating Federal overtime rules.

STOP ISIS' GROWING EMPIRE OF EVIL

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to stress the importance of supporting our allies in the region buckling under the weight of radicalization and a refugee crisis.

The current surge of Syrian refugees sweeping across Europe is challenging the European Union to decisively manage and absorb hundreds of thousands of people fleeing hostilities in the Middle East. Within the United States, we have also begun to feel its effect on our borders.

In an effort to further address the continued challenges associated with relocation and placement, members of the United Nations gathered yesterday for a summit to address the mass movement of refugees, with the goal of unifying member countries behind a more coordinated, humane response.

Sadly, with reports of violence related to this crisis and an emboldened enemy that has vowed to take advantage of this vulnerable population through means of infiltration and radicalization, we must remain vigilant, and the safety and security of the United States must be our paramount concern.

As political and religious minorities are forced to flee their homes to find safe haven, we must work with our allies to ensure that those who prey on these individuals and sow fear internationally reap only swift justice in return. We can ill afford for ISIS and its network of radicalized lone wolves to gain a critical foothold in Europe from which to stage and broadcast its horrifying brand of terrorism.

One of these vulnerable allies currently in the crosshairs of the refugee crisis is Greece. In fact, just yesterday, one of Greece's largest refugee camps went up in flames, forcing thousands to flee. With civil wars in both Libya and Syria, Greece is strategically situated to respond, or fall, to foreign threats posed by ISIS.

Souda Bay, located in the northwest corner of the Greek island of Crete, extends our security response capabilities by providing, operating, and sustaining superior facilities and services dedicated to combat readiness and security of ships, aircraft, detachments, and personnel.

Souda Bay has and continues to play a key role in providing security to a region under continual assault from threats to humanity. Along with our strategic partner, Cyprus, which houses airbases used in the fight against ISIS, Greece is a key forward base for the Western alliance.

While Greece's location allows Western forces a convenient base from which to confront ISIS, it also makes the country the front line of the refugee crisis. Because of its numerous Aegean islands, Greece is one of the largest countries in the world by coastline. As we witnessed during the height of the refugee crisis, that coastline provides many landing spots for refugees crossing the Aegean from Turkey.

Just as Greece stands with us in the fight against ISIS, we must stand with Greece, providing technical assistance, surveillance and intelligence, and equipment, as it faces increased flows of refugees. Greece represents the easternmost borders of the West, and we must ensure that this border is protected.

I agree, Mr. Speaker, there is a better way with regard to our national security. Moving forward, it is paramount that we work with regional allies like Greece in order to mitigate the rising death toll, provide a safe area for moderate opposition to form governing structures and rebuild civil society, and allow for the introduction of humanitarian aid.

This issue should not be a partisan one, Mr. Speaker. Our national security is a priority we can all agree on. America has always been at its safest when we lead from the front and not from behind. We must not be afraid to stare down evil and take action with our allies around the globe, especially in the Mediterranean. Together, we must stop ISIS' growing empire of evil before more innocent lives are destroyed.

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

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members who are laboring through these challenging days with wisdom, magnanimity, and a shared desire to serve our Nation at a pivotal time for us all.

May their efforts bring results that rise above any sense of victory for one side or the other but, rather, mutual benefit.

In the end, may we continue to trust that You would not abandon those who put their trust in You.

May all that is done this day 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 Michigan (Mr. KILDEE)