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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK 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.

END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, thousands of people will gather in Washington, D.C., this weekend for Feeding the 5000, an event designed to bring awareness to the issue of food waste. Participants will be served a communal meal made entirely out of food that would otherwise have been discarded—in other words, wasted. Since 2009, Feedback, a global environmental organization working to end food

waste, has hosted dozens of Feeding the 5000 events in cities across the globe.

I am pleased to see so many local partners—including government agencies, charitable organizations, NGOs, industry, and chefs—joining together to call attention to food waste, because the truth of the matter is we will need all of these partners working together to solve the issue of food waste.

Last year, the USDA announced their first ever food waste reduction goal, calling for a 50 percent reduction in food waste by 2030. USDA is working with charitable organizations, faith-based groups, and the private sector, and I believe this goal is 100 percent achievable.

American consumers, businesses, and farms spend an estimated \$218 billion per year growing, processing, transporting, and disposing of food that is never eaten. Up to 40 percent of all food grown is never eaten; 40 to 50 million tons of food is sent to landfills each year, plus another 10 million tons is left unharvested on farms. This food waste translates into approximately 387 billion calories of food that went unconsumed. With 50 million Americans—including 16 million children—struggling with hunger every year, these are startling figures.

We know food waste occurs throughout the supply chain, from harvesting to manufacturing, to retail operations and consumer habits. But we must do more to reduce food waste at every stage, recover food that would otherwise have been wasted, and recycle unavoidable waste as animal feed, compost, or energy.

Thankfully, there is already a lot of great work being done to raise awareness about the problem of food waste. Just last week, I attended a screening of the documentary film called “Just Eat It” at Amherst Cinema, organized by The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. “Just Eat It” follows a couple, Jen and Grant, as they stop going

to the grocery store and live solely off of foods that would have been thrown away. Jen and Grant were able to find an abundance of perfectly safe and healthy food available for consumption that would have been thrown away.

It is exciting to see new partnerships forming to study food waste and find ways to use this perfectly good food to reduce hunger in our communities. One such private-public collaboration, ReFED, has brought together over 30 business, government, and NGO leaders committed to wide-scale solutions to U.S. food waste.

In March 2016, ReFED released a Roadmap that charts the course for a 20 percent reduction of food waste within a decade. The Roadmap calls for farmers to reduce unharvested food and create secondary markets for imperfect produce. It calls on manufacturers to reduce inefficiencies, make packaging adjustments, and standardize date labeling. It calls on food service companies to further implement waste tracking and incorporate imperfect produce and smaller plates into restaurants. It urges the Federal Government to strengthen tax incentives for food donations and consider standardized date labeling legislation.

The good news is that many in the industry are already taking steps to dramatically cut down on wasted food by implementing robust donation programs. For example, Starbucks recently announced it will soon scale up its successful food donation pilot program nationwide. In partnership with the Food Donation Connection and Feeding America, Starbucks will donate unsold food from more than 7,000 company-operated stores—salads, sandwiches, and other refrigerated items—to the Feeding America food bank network. By 2021, that amounts to almost 50 million meals.

Our college campuses are also stepping up. Both the Campus Kitchens

□ 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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Project and the Food Recovery Network will work with college dining facilities and students to provide hunger relief in their local communities. In my congressional district, Becker College, Holy Cross College, Smith College, the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute all have campus food recovery initiatives.

Over the past 35 years, Feeding America has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to ensuring food that would otherwise have been wasted makes its way to food banks across the country and into the homes of families in need. There are dozens of other industry leaders also taking steps to reduce food waste by implementing manufacturing upgrades, maximizing harvests, and utilizing recycling initiatives.

I appreciate the efforts of the Food Waste Reduction Alliance in bringing together industry partners to reduce food waste, shrink the environmental footprint, and alleviate hunger in our communities.

Reducing food waste is one step we can take toward our goal of ending hunger in the United States and throughout the world. I am pleased to see so many partners at every level of the food supply chain taking action to reduce food waste, but there is still more that needs to be done. Let's solve the problem of food waste, and let's end hunger now.

A FIRE CHIEF SAYS GOOD-BYE

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

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Ramsey Fire Chief Dean Kapler, who recently announced his upcoming retirement.

Since 1993, Dean Kapler has been responsible for every aspect of the Ramsey Fire Department, a responsibility that he handles with determination and enthusiasm. Over the past 23 years, Dean has recruited and trained 55 firefighters and maintained three fire stations. Additionally, he has worked tirelessly to provide better coverage and expand fire service for the Ramsey area.

The dedication that Dean Kapler has displayed to his home city of 37 years is further proven by the retirement date he has chosen. His retirement will be determined by the completion of the new fire department, a project that he has supervised and insists on seeing through to completion.

I want to thank Dean for all the work that he has done for the city of Ramsey, and I wish him happiness in his well-earned retirement.

MONTECELLO NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT IS
"ABOVE AND BEYOND"

Mr. EMMER of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Xcel Energy's Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant for receiving the Above and

Beyond Award from the U.S. Department of Defense. This award recognizes employers who have gone above and beyond the legal requirements of supporting Guard and Reserve employees, often by giving nonrequired benefits.

The role of a Reserve member is critically important to national security, but it is a job with an uncertain future. Thankfully, the Monticello plant fully welcomes the work ethic, leadership, and applied knowledge veterans can bring to a position.

Those who serve and sacrifice to keep our Nation safe not only deserve our respect, but also our help when they come home. That is why Xcel's commitment to hire our veterans is so important.

I commend the Monticello Nuclear Generating Plant for hiring our veterans and for assisting employees who are serving in the Guard or Reserves. Congratulations and thank you to Xcel Energy for your well-deserved award.

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 9 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: Merciful God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

In you, Lord, is found the fullness of life and love. It is why the human heart always longs for more. We seek You, Lord, sometimes without knowing it.

People within our borders, within this Chamber, pray for our Nation. Others around the world pray for the United States of America as well. So many see our potential for good, for doing the right thing in the search for justice and peace.

Answer the longing of Your people, Lord. Draw closer to us. Help the Members of the people's House to realize the promise You have placed within them. Not by words alone, but by actions, help them as those of Your choosing to be people of promise who give You glory in their service to the Nation.

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 one, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. KILDEE 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.

RECOGNIZING LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH/PENN MEDICINE

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine for being a finalist in the 2015 McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service. Lancaster General was the only Pennsylvania health system to be recognized for this honor.

Lancaster General was singled out for its work on community programs for the chronically ill, the Amish community, and those dealing with tobacco and obesity issues.

Recently, the health system launched a community-led effort called Lighten Up Lancaster that works to increase obesity awareness and weight loss. For the Amish, Lancaster General offered a special free immunization program for children in the rural areas.

The Hospital and Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania said Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine has fully recognized that a relationship with the community is invaluable and key to improving health and wellness. It is well-deserving of this national recognition.

Lancaster General used the \$10,000 prize money to pay for technology to track and coordinate its social services. Congratulations, Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine.

FLINT RESIDENTS DESERVE ACTION BY THEIR GOVERNMENT

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, my hometown of Flint is still facing a crisis: 100,000 people still cannot turn on their tap and have access to safe drinking water.

This Congress faces a multitude of public health crises—Zika, the opioid epidemic—but Congress must also do its job and act on Flint to aid the people that I represent of my hometown that are still suffering and still cannot drink the water coming out of the tap—100,000 people.

This is a disaster. It is a crisis that demands Congress to act. Congress