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No. 157

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 28, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SEAN CASTEN 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 10, 2022, 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 1:50 p.m.

RECOGNIZING SAMANTHA GONZALEZ

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service of one of my staffers on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Ms. Samantha Gonzalez has dedicated over 10 years of her career to our Nation's veterans, their families, and their survivors. She started on the committee as an intern and has worked her way up to being the communica-

tions director and senior health policy adviser.

Samantha helped craft messages and advance a number of bills supporting veterans and their families—notably, the Choice and VA MISSION Acts, the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act, the PACT Act, and so many more landmark pieces of legislation.

There is no doubt that the entire veteran community is better off because of her tireless work on their behalf.

I thank Samantha for her commitment to America's veterans, and wish her the best of luck in her next adventure. She will be missed.

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remind everyone that while National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is concluding, we cannot afford to lower our guard. It dismays me that still so many veterans take their lives every day.

In 2020, approximately 16 veterans died by suicide daily, another year with more than 6,000 veteran suicide deaths. We must stay vigilant.

It took an incredible amount of work to get the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program passed in legislation through Congress. I am pleased that the first grants were awarded just last week.

Now, 80 community-based organizations in 43 States, D.C., and American Samoa will receive funding to provide or coordinate suicide prevention services for veterans and their families where and when they need it.

Many veterans either cannot or will not access the VA, but their community knows how to find them, how to get them out of isolation and out of trouble and get them the care that can save their lives and offer them a future of hope. I am excited to see just what these grants can do.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RICHARD MARTIN

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Richard Martin, a good friend and great man who passed suddenly this week.

You get to know people very closely in stressful conditions. Well, many of you know that I was a professional firefighter, and Richard always had my back.

Richard and I both served on the Murphysboro Fire Department. Richard served with the department for 32 years, from 1984 until 2016. During that time, he was a member of the Firefighters Pension Board and served as the treasurer and president of the Murphysboro Firefighters Local 3042.

Never fully retiring, he went on to become the southern district's legislative representative for the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois.

Richard was dedicated to his family, his friends, his career of service, our hometown, Murphysboro, and the community. Our prayers are with his family, including daughter Olivia and sons Eli and Zeke during this difficult time.

He was a close friend. He will be missed tremendously. His ability to teach others the art of fighting fire and doing it safely and the number of lives that he saved and the amount of property he saved will not be forgotten.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 468. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to permit the use of incentive payments to expedite certain federally financed airport development projects.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 4673. An act to reauthorize the National Computer Forensics Institute of the United

□ 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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States Secret Service, and for other purposes.

SLAVERY REMEMBRANCE DAY

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, and still I rise, a proud descendant of the enslaved people who made cotton king and America great; the enslaved people who had a hand in the construction of this Capitol, who had a hand in the construction of the White House; the enslaved people who constructed roads and bridges across the length and breadth of this country, who worked for more than 200 years without a payday. They made the difference for what we call the United States of America on the global scene at the time.

I am honored to be a descendant, and I am honored to say also that this House, on July 27, took the historic step of according them Slavery Remembrance Day, a day to remember their lives and commemorate their accomplishments.

It is important that we do this because, for too long, we have reviled the slaves and revered the enslavers. For too long, we have placed them in such a position as to cause the people who are the very descendants to be ashamed of who they were associated with, with reference to their heritage.

I am proud that this House has taken this important historic step with Slavery Remembrance Day, but I am also proud to say that at 2 o'clock tomorrow in Room 145A at the Washington Convention Center, we will continue to talk about this piece of legislation that we passed, H. Res. 517, the Original Slavery Remembrance Day Resolution.

We will talk about this. We will give a legislative update. The Reverend Al Sharpton will be there, and he will give insightful information on this very topic.

I am just proud that we no longer fear having those persons who made this country great recognized by this Congress, and that had been the case in the past.

I thank all the Members of the Congress, 218 of whom who voted for this legislation. I thank the President, who recognized Slavery Remembrance Day. I thank all of the leadership for allowing this resolution to come to the floor.

I thank Ms. ELIZABETH WARREN, the Senator who supported it, and I thank Mr. HOYER. Mr. HOYER was a man of his word, a person of his word. He said this resolution would come to the floor for a vote. He supported it, and it came to the floor for a vote.

I thank you for the courage that you showed, Mr. HOYER, and the judicious insight that you utilized to make sure that we had this opportunity.

Tomorrow, we continue what I cannot finish today at the convention center, 2 o'clock, Room 145A.

STANDING WITH IRANIAN WOMEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the people of Iran protesting the ayatollah's regime after a 22-year-old young woman, Mahsa Amini, died after being detained by Iran's morality police for allegedly incorrectly wearing a hijab.

Iranians are standing up to the ayatollah's regime's oppression of women by cutting their hair, burning their hijabs, and demanding freedom.

The Iranian Government began a violent crackdown on the protests that have resulted in dozens of protesters being killed, including women and teenagers.

I want Iranian women to know that the United States stands with you in your fight against the ayatollah's oppression and that the Iranian people have our support in your fight for freedom.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in amplifying our voices for the people of Iran and holding the regime accountable.

BRETT FAVRE CONTROVERSY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss an issue that is very troubling. It is an issue that needs to be addressed.

You see, I rise today because of the outrage and shock that Brett Favre stole money that was supposed to be used to buy formula for babies in Mississippi to build a volleyball stadium at the school his daughter played at.

Today, I join the calls of millions of Americans demanding that he and the corrupt Mississippi Republican Governor be held accountable for this action.

Brett Favre is a millionaire. In a 20-year football career, he made over \$100 million. It would take an average Mississippian 20 years to make just \$1 million.

Instead of coming out of his own pocket, he used his power, influence, and relationships with corrupt Republican lawmakers to steal the money from those in Mississippi who need it the most. His actions were criminal, shameful, reckless, and irresponsible.

Brett Favre is from Mississippi. One might think he should have cared that his home State is one of the poorest in the Nation and suffers from one of the highest rates of child poverty in this country.

He should have cared that one in every five Mississippians lives in extreme poverty. One might think that he should have cared that in Jackson, Mississippi, the capital, almost 25 percent of the households depend on minimum wage. In these families, most earn less than \$15,000 a year.

One might think he should have cared that hundreds of thousands of Mississippians often have to boil their water due to the corruption and the neglect by the leadership in Mississippi, the Republican leadership, neglect that Brett Favre was a key and influential factor of, neglect that he and the corrupt Governor benefited from, but Brett didn't care.

In July 2019, Brett texted Governor Bryant, telling him how much he loved Nancy New and John Davis for what they did for him and Southern Miss.

□ 1215

He called the theft of funds amazing. Governor Bryant knew that the money could have been used to provide thousands of low-income families with a year's worth of rent. He knew that it could have covered the cost of their electricity and their childcare bills. He knew that it could have provided thousands of Mississippi families with as many as nine meals a day.

But they didn't care. They didn't care that year after year many of Mississippi's most vulnerable people can't shower, cook, or bathe for weeks on end due to the systemic neglect in their water system.

In a report released earlier this month by Vox, Benji Jones explained the water crisis in Jackson, Mississippi, perfectly. He wrote: "However, infrastructure is often poorly maintained or intentionally overlooked in particular places, leading to a lack of access, affordability, and safety for many communities of color."

Brett and Governor Bryant intentionally overlooked the needs of Mississippi's poor people for a volleyball stadium. Perhaps this New York Times headline says it best: Brett Favre's most memorable stat may now be the \$8 million he helped steal from the poor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, this is a travesty in this country to take from the poorest of the poor and to neglect what they have done. Brett Favre and that government should atone and pay for what they have done.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is no longer recognized.

REPUBLICAN COMMITMENT TO AMERICA

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the American people are at their wits' end.

They fear that our great country has fallen into a state of disrepair the likes of which have never been seen before.

They have watched as our time-tested institutions have become engulfed by a smog of bureaucratic rot.

They have gathered at their kitchen tables for nights on end wondering how much further they could stretch their budgets to support their families.