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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 17, 2013.

I hereby appoint the Honorable KERRY BENTIVOLIO 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 1:50 p.m.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE'S WASHINGTON FOOTBALL FRANCHISE NAME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce the disparaging name of the National Football League's Washington, D.C., franchise, the Redskins, which I will refer to as the "R-word." The Native American community has spent millions of dollars over the past two decades to fight the racism that is perpetuated by this

slur. Despite their best efforts, our Native American brothers' and sisters' cries have fallen on deaf ears. Such an impasse is largely due to the widespread ignorance regarding the history of this denigrating term. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues the painful and violent past associated with the "R-word."

The origin of the "R-word" is commonly attributed to the historical practice of trading Native American Indian skins, Mr. Speaker, Native American Indian skins and body parts as bounties and trophies. For example, in 1749, the British bounty on the Mi'kmaq Nation of what is now Maine and Nova Scotia was a straightforward "10 guineas for every Indian Mi'kmaq taken or killed, to be paid upon producing such savage taken or his scalp."

Just as devastating was the Phips Proclamation, issued in 1755 by Spencer Phips, lieutenant governor and commander in chief of the Massachusetts Bay Province, who called for the wholesale extermination of the Penobscot Indian Nation. The Phips Proclamation declared the Penobscot to be "enemies, rebels, and traitors to his Majesty King George, II" and required those residing in the province to "embrace all opportunities of pursuing, capturing, killing, and destroying all and every of the aforesaid Indians."

By vote of the General Court of the Province, white settlers were paid out of the public treasury for killing and scalping the Penobscot people. The bounty for a male Penobscot Indian above the age of 12 was 50 pounds, and his scalp was worth 40 pounds. The bounty for a female Penobscot Indian of any age and for males under the age of 12 was 25 pounds, while their scalps were worth 20 pounds. Historical accounts show that these scalps were called "Redskins."

The current chairman and chief of the Penobscot Nation, Chief Kirk Francis recently declared in a joint

statement that the "R-word" is "not just a racial slur or a derogatory term," but a painful "reminder of one of the most gruesome acts of ethnic cleansing ever committed against the Penobscot people." The hunting and killing of Penobscot Indians, as stated by Chief Francis, Mr. Speaker, was "a most despicable and disgraceful act of genocide."

Mr. Speaker, such disgrace continues to live on through Washington's franchise's name. In a recent letter to 10 of our colleagues, the National Football League's Commissioner Roger Goodell said essentially that the use of the "R-word" is meant to honor Native Americans. Baloney. He added, "For the team's millions of fans and customers, the name is a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride, and respect." In other words, Mr. Speaker, the National Football League is telling everyone—Native Americans included—that they cannot be offended because the National Football League means no offense.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Goodell's casual and dismissive response is indicative of the racist history beyond the Washington franchise's name. Its founder, George Preston Marshall, is identified by historians as the driving force behind the color barrier that existed for 12 years in the National Football League, a sad chapter from 1934 to 1945 when African Americans were prohibited from the league by a "gentleman's agreement" that we're not allowed to play. Mr. Marshall changed the team's name from the Braves in 1933, and after the NFL's color line was crossed in 1946, Marshall's franchise was the last team on the field where African Americans were allowed to play—and not until 1962.

I might also add that Mr. Marshall did not welcome African American players with open arms. It was then that Secretary of the Interior, Stewart Udall, and Attorney General Robert F.

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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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Kennedy presented Marshall with an ultimatum: unless Marshall signed an African American player, the government would revoke his franchise's 30-year lease of the use of the stadium here in the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, today, we find ourselves fighting the same racist threads that pervaded the Washington franchise for more than 50 years. We simply cannot continue to carry on hateful traditions that mock, belittle, disparage, and disgrace those of a different race because of the color of their skin. As a Nation, we have come too far to fight for these rights, and I think Native Americans deserve to have a better sense of self-esteem and dignity.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 7 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: God, our Father, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

Bless the Members of the people's House as they return to Washington. May their energy to address our Nation's issues be renewed following their visits home for the Father's Day weekend.

Continue to bless all who work in the Capitol. May our citizens be mindful of their generous service to the operations of government and supportive of them as they toil in relative anonymity day in and day out.

We ask that what all those who work within these hallowed Halls do work for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. 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. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WENSTRUP 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.

SECURING THE FUTURE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have a plan to create jobs, grow our economy, and secure our future for all Americans. And we're going to do it by expanding opportunity, not expanding government.

We're going to hold government accountable to the hardworking taxpayers of this country. We're going to rein in runaway Washington spending that's driving up our national debt. We're going to reform our Tax Code to make it fair and simpler for all Americans. We're going to promote an all-of-the-above, all-American energy strategy that will create jobs, lower energy costs, and strengthen our national security.

These are the commonsense solutions that the American people deserve. It's not fair that Washington Democrats keep offering up only more spending and political games. Real solutions to real problems, that's the House Republican commitment.

THE GET RELIEF FROM ACADEMIC DEBT ACT OF 2013

(Ms. NEGRETE McLEOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NEGRETE McLEOD. Mr. Speaker, upon graduation, many students are faced with repayment of student loans, in addition to seeking employment in a very tough job market. Over 5.4 million Americans have at least one past-due student loan account which affects their credit and our Nation's economy.

Last week my colleague, Representative JANICE HAHN, and I introduced H.R. 2349, the Get Relief from Academic Debt Act of 2013. The GRAD Act would extend the grace period of 6 months to 1 year after graduation before the onset of repayment of the Federal student loans.

By extending the grace period, graduates have a longer period of opportunity to find a good-paying job before repayment of these loans begins. I urge the House to consider this legislation for the millions of the Nation's graduate students who are struggling to pay back loans.

SEXUAL ASSAULT WITHIN OUR MILITARY MUST BE ADDRESSED

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, sexual assault and misconduct within our military ranks occur far too often, and threaten the

safety of both men and women serving in our Armed Forces. Our brave military personnel go well beyond the call of duty risking their lives to protect American families and the freedoms we hold dear. It is our obligation to crack down on these heinous crimes by strengthening the military justice system so that we can better protect those who protect us.

I am very grateful that last week Members from both sides of the aisle joined together in a bipartisan fashion to address this problem by passing the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2014. Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus leaders MIKE TURNER and NIKI TSONGAS, with House Armed Services Committee Chairman BUCK McKEON, worked together to make a difference.

Thankfully, we were successful in including 20 additional provisions that will address prevention, investigation, prosecution, and punishment of the crime of sexual assault.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

CDKL5 AWARENESS DAY

(Mr. WENSTRUP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WENSTRUP. Madam Speaker, I stand before you today to tell you about a rare disorder known as CDKL5.

Today, June 17, is CDKL5 Awareness Day. This genetic disorder was discovered by genetic markers in 2004. Those impacted usually suffer from seizures and rarely, if ever, walk or talk.

My niece, Catie, is one of only 600 known cases in the world. When Catie was born just 5 years ago, only 200 children had been diagnosed with CDKL5 disorder. Due to the recent discovery of this condition, and its resemblance to Rett Syndrome, epilepsy and autism, it's likely that there are many children who have been undiagnosed or misdiagnosed.

Families are forced to turn to the Internet and the community of parents because even doctors know relatively little about CDKL5. Unfortunately, at this time there's no cure, only hours of therapy, and for many, traveling long distances to specialists. Fortunately, CDKL5 research is taking place.

The children impacted with CDKL5 disorder cannot talk to you about their condition, so the responsibility falls to us to raise awareness.

My family learns something from Catie every day. It's my hope that we can continue to learn more for Catie and the other young people impacted by CDKL5 disorder.

THE AMERICAN DREAM

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

Mr. YODER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about the American